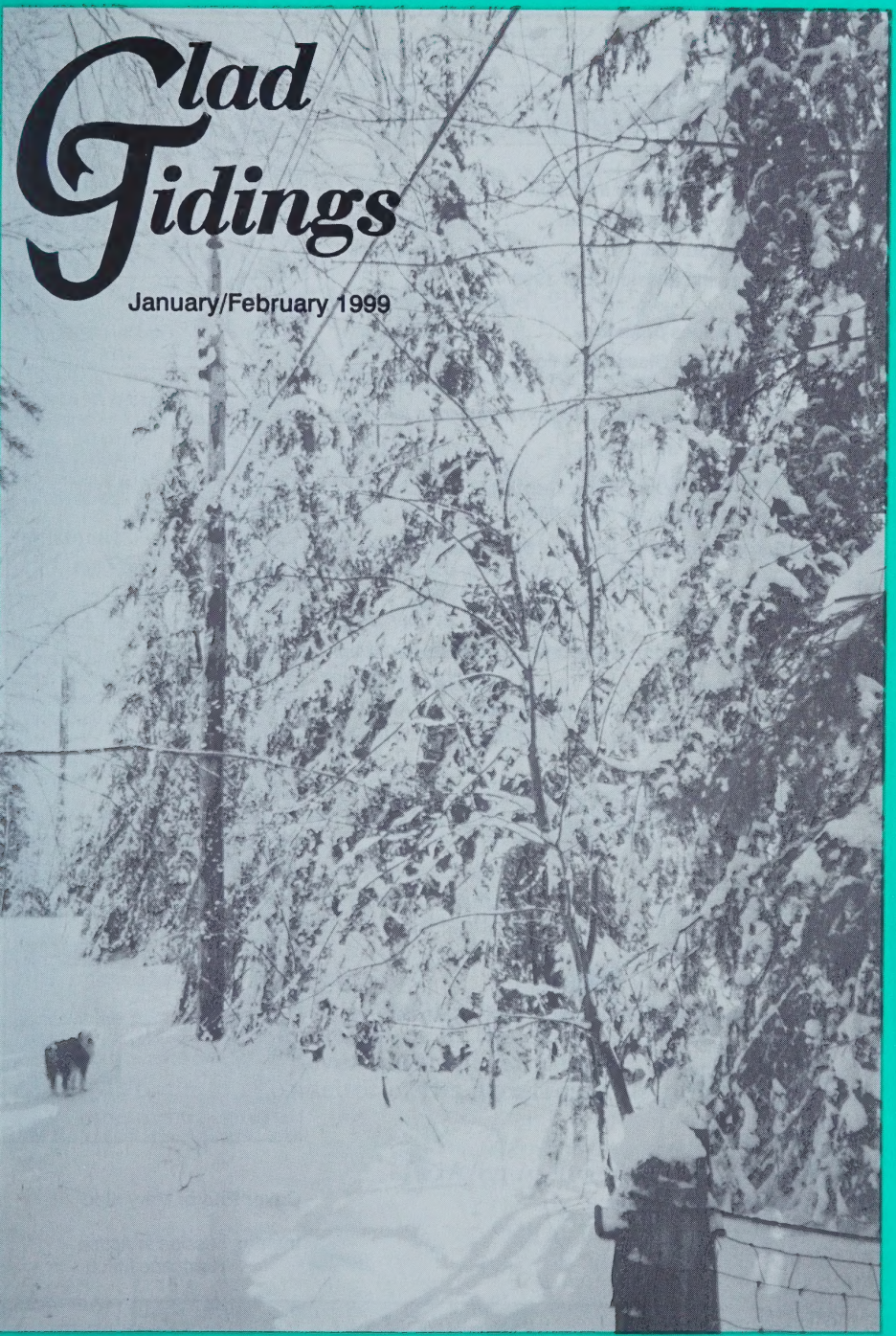
Glad Tidings

January/February 1999



Contents

Features

Who & Where: *Mission in Action*

4 **Mission on Laura Street** . . . . . *by Denise Fenez*

8 **The Nacho Bus** . . . . . *by Jim Patterson*

11 **Guatemala Mission Tour 1998** . . . . . *by Margaret Jamieson*

15 **Experiences of Malawi** . . . . . *by Charlotte Brown*

18 **Malawi: The Blessing of Food** . . . . . *by Heather Jones*

20 **The Nirhama Way** . . . *by John Alexander Johnston*

21 **Drive Carefully with Prayer** . . . . . *by Gladys Nolan*

22 **Central America Appeal**

24 **In Memoriam:** *Frances Marie Rivers*

25 **The Earnest Prayer - a poem** . . *by Reginald McClelland*

26 **INDEX 1998**

41 **Retreat - a poem** . . . . . *by Joan Bond*

43 **We Are Your Hands - a poem** . . . . . *by Frances Rivers*

44 **Touch - a poem** . . . . . *by Maureen Kowal*

48 **Officers and Executive Members**

Regulars

3 **Written in Love**

28 **Books/Resources**

31 **Forward in Faith**

31 ***"I"*-Witness**

32 **Mission in Action -** *Van Wissen, Jones, McMullen, Randall, Schwarz*

37 **Readers Write**

38 **News**

42 **In the Society**

46 **Circulation News**

47 **In Remembrance**

Glad Tidings

Jan./Feb. 1999
Volume 75 No.1

EDITOR:
L. JUNE STEVENSON
CIRCULATION MANAGER:
KATHERINE ALLEN

Published six times a year by the Women's Missionary Society, W.D. of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, 50 Wynford Drive, North York, Ont. M3C 1J7. Tel. 1 (416) 441-1111. Fax 1 (416) 441-2825. Publications mail registration number 0606. ISSN: 00170720.

Member of the Canadian Church Press and the Associated Church Press.

Subscription rate for 1998 $10.00 including G.S.T. per year. Single copies $1.70. W.M.S. members should send their subscriptions through their group Glad Tidings Secretary. Individual subscribers may order direct from Glad Tidings. Please make all money orders and cheques payable at par to Glad Tidings.

GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

Cover Photo: Mary Kidd

Inside: *Mission in Action*
Hurricane Mitch

A Prayer at the New Year

I pray for peace in my heart
A deep, abiding peace that spreads outward
into my neighbourhood
around the world
Spiralling across the vast unexplored universe of time and space.

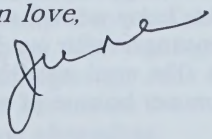
I pray for faith in my life
A strong, uplifting faith that guides me
In everything I do
In all I hope to be
Urging me out of darkness into everlasting light.

I pray for love in my days
A rich, undying love that encompasses all
Whom I encounter every day
And touches those I'll never know
A love that swells and grows, endures beyond the bounds of earthly time.

I pray for joy in everything I do
To sing God's praise
To rejoice in God's presence
To celebrate God's Gift
For laughter bubbling up and spilling over into grace.

I pray for hope in tomorrow
A hope renewed each morning with the rising sun
That He who holds me in His care
Will never falter, never fail
To keep me in the shelter of His arm from this time on and evermore.

Written in love,



WHO & WHERE

From Laura Street in Winnipeg, to Guatemala, to Malawi and Hong Kong - This is *Mission in Action!*

MISSION ON LAURA STREET

by Denise Finez

As Director I often get asked, "What do you do at Anishinabe Fellowship Centre anyway?" It is difficult to have a tidy answer because every day brings new challenges.

I have chosen to tell you about one day in the life of Anishinabe-Thanksgiving Sunday-because most of you will remember what you were doing on that day.

Anishinabe Fellowship Centre is an Inner City Mission funded nationally by *Presbyterians Sharing,* and locally by the Presbytery of Winnipeg. We are part of National Native Ministries in Canada.

Anishinabe is an Ojibwa word meaning "The People". So we are The Peoples Fellowship Centre, in the core area of Winnipeg. Statistics Canada have given us the distinction of being one of the five poorest areas in Canada.

Sunday morning has come too quickly; I feel as if I just left work, probably because I was preparing niblet corn from frozen cobs and baking pumpkin pies until 10 pm last night. Today we will start having Sunday dinner again after our 3:30 pm Sunday service. The meal was discontinued over the summer because of my holidays.

9:10 am and the city streets are quiet. It takes me about five minutes to get to work on a Sunday. Jack says he just arrived, but already he has the turkey in the oven so I know he has been there for awhile. He questions me about the pies and is concerned that I stayed at the Centre alone on a Saturday night. I assure him that I had all the doors locked and I wasn't about to let anyone in whom I didn't know and trust. He jokingly asks if we should sample the pies, and we do.

Jack is 63 years old and keeps reminding me his birthday is December 1st. Jack has been a very faithful worker for at least three years. He shovels snow in the winter, cuts grass in the summer, washes walls and floors, straightens out the clothing for our clothing sales, prepares coffee, does dishes and cooks the turkey, when we have one.

I go to get potatoes, picked, free of charge, about a month ago. The first disaster of the day. Some of the potatoes have gone rotten. I haven't got time to go through all of them right now. I need to prepare for at least 25 people.

A very generous couple gave us two large stainless steel pots and I am thankful every time I use them, which is often.

Jack is preparing soup with the turkey liver, and he is waiting for me to get out of the way so he can wash the kitchen floor.

At ***10:30*** I get ready to go to my usual church service at St. John's. I call the two people who usually come with me, but they are not there. I find them and learn that while eating frozen chocolate, an upper plate got broken. Understandably going to a church service with no teeth is a BIG problem. I can relate to that.

11 am the service begins. One generous woman gives me her monthly donation to Anishinabe. She always says, "I wish I could do more." She has no idea how her generosity is way more than most people would even think of giving. Many remember us at Christmas, but she remembers us every month.

Another woman gives me a bag of fresh vegetables from her garden. A dear Scottish woman gives me a sweater which she just finished knitting the night before. She tells me it might be nice for a Christmas gift with a little toy. She is right; it will make a lovely gift.

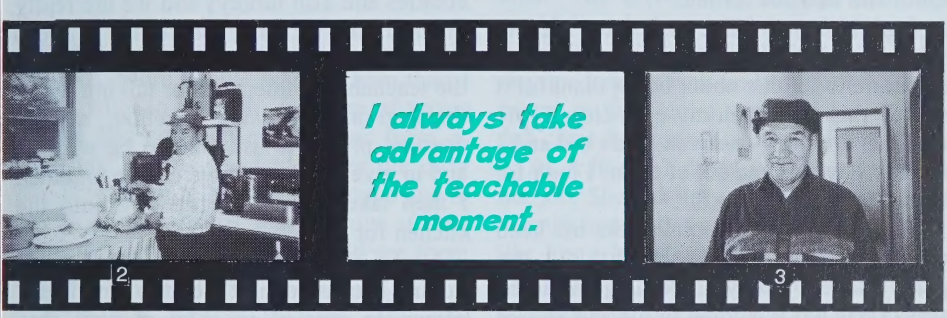
Two women approach me as the service ends and say that they had been thinking of us and would delivery a turkey if they could find one. These women remember us often and their generosity is most welcome too. After the service I am told that there is a substantial supply of fresh food for me to take to Anishinabe. I had forgotten that this was Thanksgiving Sunday. Flora House and Anishinabe always get fresh produce that Sunday.

It is ***12:30*** before I return to work. We now have our usual Sunday morning visitor. He comes for a visit, has a coffee and takes the TV Guide home. He has helped bring in all the foodstuff from the church and I offer him some. He selects some potatoes and carrots for the soup he likes to make. Speaking of soup, Jack's soup is ready and he offers me a bowl.

I bring a card table into the kitchen and place all the fresh vegetables there for people to help themselves.

Two young couples come in after attending a service at a Pentecostal church. I know they are hungry because they have been coming to the Centre almost every day this past week. Someone broke into their apartment and stole all their food and the welfare wouldn't help them. They will get their usual cheque on Tuesday, but today is Thanksgiving Sunday.

I had invited them to come today because I knew they had been eating the beans and Kraft Dinner this past week that I gave them. They help themselves to the fresh vegetables to take home.



Photos left to right: Anishinabe Fellowship Centre, Laura Street, Winnipeg; Jack cutting the turkey at Thanksgiving; Jack Desjarlais, master caretaker, from turkey soup to snow shoveling.

Chris Shaw has offered to continue doing the Sunday service. I have not had any luck trying to find someone to do Sunday School, so I have been doing it. I'm not ready and I have to take a quick look at the ideas that "The Whole People of God" has laid out for me.

I go into my office and, after reading what is available, I realize that I don't need someone to tell me about being thankful. I can do this class with my eyes closed. My children are three-to-seven years old and I usually have around six of them. I look for a book on being thankful.

As I am looking a man sticks his head around the corner and asks if this is the place where a turkey dinner is going to be served. He has a woman in his van who is in a wheelchair, plus two women and one child and he is just checking if it is alright to leave her here. I welcome them and ask them if they would like a coffee. It is pouring rain outside and their jackets are wet.

Some regulars start coming from the neighbourhood, and I can see they are feeling uncomfortable with the new people that are mulling about. I try and make them feel like they are still at home here; nothing has changed. Getting people to help makes them feel at ease.

3:30 pm is looming. I grab a songbook to look for a song of thanksgiving that will be easy to sing with no music. At this point there are probably about 12 adults and eight children. As I begin the service, one of the nice women from the early morning service walks in and starts to talk to me. The chairs are in a circle and we do look rather informal.

I share with the children and adults that this woman is one who always brings us cookies and also turkeys and we are really thankful that we have people like her who care about us. I always take advantage of the teachable moment. After talking about thanksgiving, we sing together, say an opening prayer to ask God to be with us and to give thanks that we can be together. I then take my eight little girls into the kitchen for our lesson.

I take the opportunity to have some sharing because one of the little girls is not known to any of us. She is very shy. Everyone says their name, how old they are and how many brothers and sisters they have. The new girl won't say a word. We try to guess her name and then I take the opportunity to tell them how God has made us each special and even if we don't know her name, God knows her. We are all unique.

I use the book to be thankful for our five senses. I ask lots of questions and they all answer happily. I also teach them the names of the vegetables on the table. They have never heard of a zucchini or squash before, but they were so proud to recognize a pumpkin. We had apple juice and grapes for snack and then coloured some pictures of animals which God had created. Finally

the new little girl writes her name on her paper, *Melissa.*

At ***4:20 pm*** Jack comes into the kitchen and says there are 22 out there. With the eight in the kitchen that means there are 30 mouths to feed. I'm still feeling okay about the numbers.

I announce that unlike most soup kitchens, everyone here has to help. Big mistake. More people want to help than I know what to do with. A group of young people had come in and I know them as "sniffers". I was shocked to see the dirty hands wanting to handle the food. I had to say that clean hands were a must if they were to handle the food. I could see them shoving one another.

Everyone wanted to help. The two young couples who had been at the Centre earlier in the day took over and were instrumental in getting the food out. The others set the tables.

I announce that we have the tradition that Elders come to the table first and then everyone else. I also announce that there is no more food in the kitchen so to please not take more than they will eat. In the end there were at least five people who got nothing, and I was one of them. We had lots of pie but that was not very helpful for the ones who didn't get any meat and potatoes.

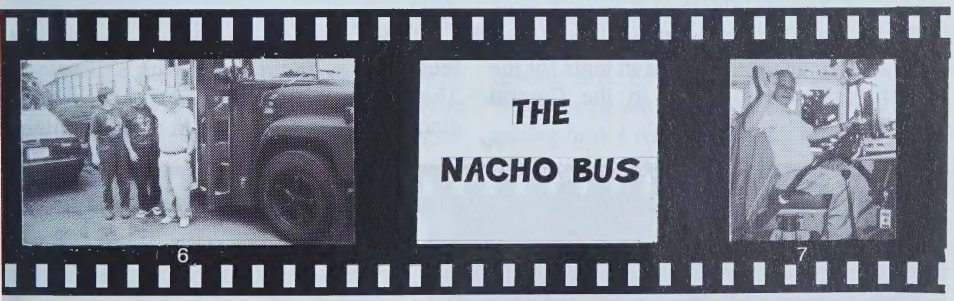
By this time I was undone. I could have opened up some tins of Ravioli but the thought only comes to me now. I should have prayed for the miracle of generosity amongst those filling their plates to overflowing. Four different people help do dishes and others clean the tables.

I drive several of the people home in my van, including the woman in the wheelchair. The driver who dropped them off couldn't pick them up. I then drive back to Anishinabe Fellowship. Jack is still cleaning up. I drive Jack and his wife home. I return to the Centre, put out the garbage and clean bathrooms.

At ***7:30 pm*** I drive a young woman to her job. She has been working a couple of months now and is working a 12-hour shift. She has a lot of pressure to quit. She also has four children. Thankfully she has a husband who willingly takes responsibility for the children and does a wonderful job.

I am home at ***8 pm.*** I phone Chris and ask her how things went with the adults. I also phone a woman who had some possible leads for support for Anishinabe.

It is ***10 pm*** once again and I'm finally ready to stop thinking about work. I'm tired. I think that I really am too old for this kind of work. I am thankful for a sandwich and a nice warm bed to climb into. I am sure that there are many who are not as fortunate.



Photos left to right: Denise's Sunday School class on Thanksgiving Sunday; Brenda and Jim Patterson, with Don Munn and "Margo"; Don preparing for takeoff!

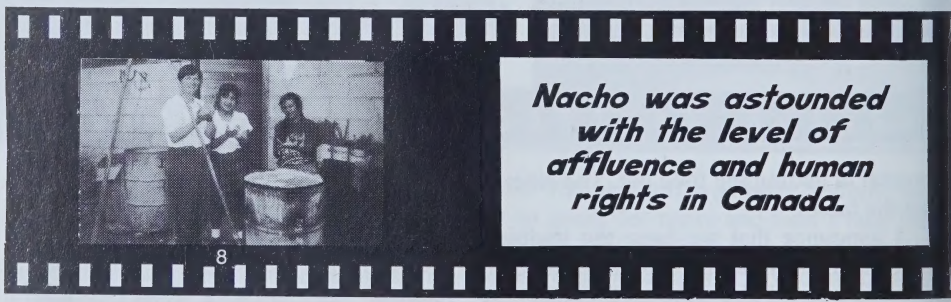
The Nacho Bus

A Grassroots Experiment in Sustainable Development

by Jim Patterson

During the most difficult years of the Guatemalan civil war, the indigenous people of Guatemala suffered unimaginable hardships. Whole villages were massacred. Hundreds of thousands of men, women and children were displaced from their homes and from their land. Numbers of these found refuge in Canada. Others found a less secure exile in Chiapas in Southern Mexico. The rest found themselves dislocated within Guatemala itself.

In 1993 a group of these "internally displaced" Mayans occupied the Central Square in front of the Government Buildings in Guatemala City. One of their leaders was a Presbyterian pastor by the name of Ignacio (Nacho) Lopez Lopez. With his wife Margo and their six children, they joined the others to live in tents for the better part of two years in the Central Square.



They were protesting the loss of their land, and the brutality of the US-backed regime which was trying to destroy the Mayan people. While they were living in such terrible conditions, Margo gave birth to her seventh child. They named the baby Myrna after Myrna Mack, the civil rights worker who had been murdered by the Military not long before.

The occupation and demonstrations had little effect. Abner, Nacho's oldest son, was arrested and imprisoned for his part in the protest. At the age of 14 he found himself in a Guatemalan prison, suffering to achieve basic rights most of us tend to take for granted.

Finally, in 1995, the group of dissidents learned of a parcel of property near Villa Nueva (about 20 kms from Guatemala City) which an Army officer was trying to turn into a subdivision. Nacho's group of about 100 families, soon joined by many others, took possession of the land as compensation for their stolen lands and disrupted lives. (The Army and the Government have not conceded their right to land to this day.)

Nacho settled in with his family and built a 20' x 20' tin shack with a dirt floor. There was no running water. A trickle of electricity was pirated from a nearby high voltage line. Nacho did what odd jobs he could to support his family. In his spare time he served as pastor and organizer in the community.

Margo was diagnosed with cancer. With no health care system Nacho found it necessary to find the money to pay for her expensive surgery, and to look after the children. Life was definitely not easy.

Through contact with Missioner Joe

Reed and financial help from Canadian Presbyterian Churches, Nacho and Margo tried to educate their children. Abner, the oldest, found work as an assistant on the suburban bus line. His income of CDN$7 per day helped keep the family together.

In 1996 I traveled to Guatemala to stay with Nacho and his family. The many obstacles they were facing had not deterred them from working actively with their community. The children were making slow progress in school. And Margo, even in her weakened condition, was putting in a day's work that would make most Canadians cringe.

While I was there, Abner asked if I could possibly find him a bus so that he could support the family and give Nacho the freedom to do his community work full time. I told him I would think about it.

To tell the truth, I did not think I could ever manage to get a bus down to Guatemala even if I could find enough money to buy one in the first place. But the needs in Nacho's community were staggering. And the thought of Margo working herself into an early grave haunted me.

In the Fall of that year, we arranged for Nacho to return my visit. He stayed with us a month. He was as astounded with the level of affluence and human rights in Canada, as I had been astounded at the opposite conditions in his village in Guatemala.

Shortly after he returned home, he was severely beaten and robbed. His injuries were such that he was unable to work. The family sunk further into desperate poverty. First Church Thunder Bay sent money for an operation to relieve the pressure of blood from a hemorrhage in Nacho's head. His recovery was long and slow.

Church people advised Margo to get a job. Despite her own still weak condition, Margo started work as a housekeeper. She walked round trip 5 kms per day, taking young Myrna with her, and the homeward journey was uphill all the way. At the end of her gruelling day, Margo still faced the normal round of her own household chores.

Finally, by God's grace alone, Nacho was well enough to take an outside job. The family was left with some debts, and with little hope for future education past public school for the children. And Margo was exhausted.

Meanwhile in Canada, I had been following this. Every once in a while Abner would send me an e-mail through a friend asking how I was doing with the bus. I was still at a loss. My initial sketchy figures indicated that it would cost around $10,000

Thank you for the opportunity to have made this incredible journey.

Photos left to right: Brenda, Margo's daughter and Margo in Guatemala, making tortillas; Guatemala City dump, a shock to the system.

to put a bus in his hands. That was $12,000 more than I had on hand.

Late in the summer of 1997, I finally started to get serious. Brenda, my wife, who has a great deal more faith than I have, made arrangements to send a request for funds to the Presbyterials of the WMS. Through a friend I met at General Assembly, a grant of $500 was received from St. Andrew's Church, St. John's NFLD.

By April of 1998 the WMS groups were well on their way to sending what would be a total of $5100. Two gratefully received bequests from members of First Church and a sizeable anonymous donation brought us up to $7600. Then one by one, other donations arrived until by the end of June the total stood at $11,100. The project was doable.

Preparing the bus for the trip was an adventure in generosity. First of all, we secured a suitable vehicle for the ridiculously low price of $2000. $4400 worth of repairs put it in top shape.

A generous family donated an entire set of almost new tires. A paint store gave us an exquisite deal on paint and supplies. Members of First Church spent endless hours cleaning and readying the bus for painting, making a tire carrier, installing a bulkhead, adding bunks, and making everything ship-shape.

Don Munn, an elder from First Church who is a professional bus driver, volunteered to be the designated driver (thus solving a very difficult problem. Insurance was donated. Tools and a fire extinguisher were donated. The customers and staff at Fabricland where Brenda works donated 30 boxes of remnants. Another fellow donated a box of carpentry tools for the village. A Lutheran women's group sent five boxes of soap for the village.

Finally, we named the bus "Margo" in honour of Nacho's valiant wife who had struggled so long and hard to provide for her family.

On Sunday July 26th, the First Church Thunder Bay congregation commissioned Brenda, Don and myself and sent us off with many prayers. We had done our homework. The bus ran well. And so we arrived in Guatemala Monday morning August 3rd where we officially transferred the bus to Nacho and Abner.

The next Sunday August 10th at the Presbyterian Church of the Good Shepherd Amatitlan, Guatemala, the congregation blessed the gift of the bus and prayed for Abner's success in supporting his father's ministry and in educating his brothers and sisters.

Throughout the preparations and the journey we had become very aware of God's providence. We prayed with them that God would continue to bless the work now begun.

With thankful hearts later that week Brenda, Don and I took leave of the Lopez

10

Our first visit to the dump was a shock that is difficult to put into words.

family and made our way back home.

Was it worth it? Time will tell. The total investment in preparing the bus, getting it to Guatemala, paying the duty, purchasing the route and permits and came to $13,100. If all goes well, the Lopez family should realize an annual net income of $11,500 over and above money being set aside to maintain the bus and to replace the bus at the end of its expected five-year operating life.

Nacho should be able to pursue his ministry. The children should be able to receive their education. Margo's workload may be eased. Abner spoke to us about his desire to support an orphaned child as well. May God prosper the work of his hands.

Brenda, Don, and I thank you for the opportunity to have made this incredible journey. The Lopez family sends with us their heartfelt thanks for your support and your prayers.

From Nacho: To the brothers and sisters, donors:

The grace of the Lord be with you. I pray that the benediction of Numbers 6:24 will be yours: "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace."

The demonstration of solidarity with this pastor's family has been accomplished by brother Jim Patterson accompanied by his wife Brenda and brother Donald Munn. They shared two weeks with us here in our house completing the mission entrusted them by Canadian Presbyterians.

In the manner of Romans 15:25-27, I thank you for the collection from all of you. I know it is a great sacrifice, but God put it in your hearts. Again, I thank you all for the collection. It is a very excellent bus. Please receive a grateful greeting from my entire family. Abner, my eldest son, already has begun to work with the bus. May the Lord pour down blessings which will overabound.

Attentively: The Reverend Ignacio Lopez Lopez, Pastor of those displaced within Guatemala by the war.

Photos left to right: Francisco Coll School, like an oasis in the desert; Sister Gladys and Joe Reed at Francisco Coll School; Rev. Charlotte Brown with Dr. Vera Chirwa.

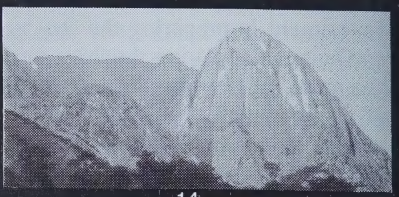
Guatemala Mission Tour 1998

by Margaret Jamieson

On Saturday, August 22nd, five members of Knox, Agincourt, and two people from our national church office, left Toronto on a one-week mission exposure tour to Guatemala. We left that morning with feelings of anticipation, excitement and some anxiety as to what lay ahead of us on our journey.

Although we had met with Joe Reed and Ken Kim here at Knox in the months prior to our departure, and had seen a video made by St. Andrew's, Kitchener when

13



14

they visited Guatemala earlier this year, we still could not be completely prepared for the sights and experiences that awaited us. The first thing that struck us as we were preparing to land in Guatemala City and caught our first glimpse of the country from the air, was the spectacular landscape.

Guatemala is a very beautiful country-mountainous and lush. During our week there, as we traveled outside the city to Antigua and Chichicastenango, it seemed that, with every turn in the road, we were met with a more spectacular view than the last. The amazing physical beauty of the country is in stark contrast to the realities of everyday life for most of the people.

This is a country with a very tragic history. A thirty-six year civil war has left tens of thousands dead or disappeared, while the social conditions which caused the war remain. Two percent of landowners control two thirds of the land and three quarters of the population live in desperate poverty.

Racism against the Mayans (who make up 60% of the population) is entrenched, and corruption in the government and military, as well as continuing human rights violations, mean that democracy is still a dream.

We came home from Guatemala with many stories to tell. We met and listened to the terrible experiences of people whose loved ones are among the "disappeared" of the war and who are working, through an organization called FAMDEGUA to find answers and closure concerning these abductions and murders.

We met Maria Saquic, who is the widow of a Mayan Presbyterian pastor. Her husband was murdered in 1995 as a result of his stand on human rights issues, and because Maria will not give up her quest for truth and justice concerning his death, she is continually threatened and harassed and lives in fear for the safety of both herself and her five children.

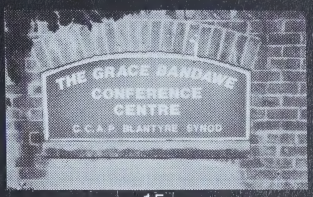
We met Sister Ann and Sister Anselma who work and live with the poor in the squatters community called Jocatales. Perhaps the one experience that had the greatest impact and gave us the closest look at the lives of the poor in Guatemala, was our visits to the dump in Guatemala City.

Our first visit to the dump on the day after our arrival was a shock that is difficult to put into words. We arrived at the small church there in time for mass on Sunday afternoon. A road cuts through the dump and passes alongside the church building.

During the week, this road provides access to the dump for all the garbage trucks. Just before we arrived it had been raining and the road was covered in mud. Garbage and debris were everywhere.

As we got out of our vehicles, it was hard to know where to put our feet. There were dogs roaming about and vultures were perched on walls, and circling the sky overhead. And then there was the smell. I don't think any of us will ever forget it.

It is said that people who go to Africa always seem to leave their hearts.



15

The realization that people live here, that this is actually a community, was very hard to accept. This is not an environment that anyone should have to call home. The "houses" are no more than shacks and lean-tos, mostly made of materials found among the garbage.

Here are just a few statistics about conditions in the dump: 87% of shelters have metal roofs; 86% have earth floors, 77% have a single room (with an average of five people living there); 84% have no drinking water or electricity and most get their water from common municipal taps; 54% cook with material they find in the dump to use as fuel.

Needless to say, with these conditions, health problems are rampant. Most common are diarrhea and chronic coughs due to respiratory infections. (The fumes from the garbage are very toxic-there is no sorting of materials.)

The children born here all help with household activities and collect garbage. Most young children up to six or seven years are rejected by their parents and many are physically and verbally abused. Drug use amongst the children, especially alcohol and glue sniffing, becomes an escape for many.

In the midst of all this squalor there is one place (almost like an oasis in the desert) that offers some hope to these children. That is the Francisco Coll School. This elementary school was begun in 1994 for the children who live in the dump. It is run by an order of Roman Catholic sisters, and is supported financially in part by the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The present director of the school is Sister Gladys, a wonderful and dedicated woman, who is devoted to providing an educational opportunity for these children.

She visits homes and urges parents to send their children to school, follows up with those who do not attend regularly, and is encouraging last year's two graduates (the school's first) as they continue in high school.

There are almost 200 children enroled at present and six teachers to look after them. It is not easy to attract teachers to this school and recently, when the grade one teacher quit, Sister Gladys took over the class herself.

The school goes up to grade six. This year, six young people are hoping to graduate and all would like to go to high school. We had a chance to spend time with them when they helped us do some painting at the school, and then when they came to our guesthouse for pizza one evening.

Most of them are 14 or 15 years old and

Photos left to right: Depicting the history of the Women's Guild - then, now and in the future; regal Mount Mulanje; The Grace Bandawe Conference Centre, Blantyre Synod.

it has obviously been a struggle for them to get as far as they have. Most come from large families and as they get older there will be increasing pressure on them to help with family support.

What do they want to do with their lives? One wants to be a doctor, another an architect, and one a nurse. What are their chances of succeeding? Well, the road out of the dump will be a long one for all of them. First of all, it will cost approximately $200US a year for each of them to attend high school. None of them have this money and will need scholarships. They will not receive much encouragement from home-if any. They will have to go to high school outside the dump. Will they fit in and be accepted? Another problem. The odds against these children are enormous, and yet we were amazed and inspired by their ability to hope and dream. The sound of their chatter and laughter as they helped us paint at the school, or as we played with them in the schoolyard on our last morning in Guatemala City, reminded us that in some ways they are just like children everywhere.

Altagracia, a woman we met at the school, has lived in the dump for most of her life. After the death of her father, she was raised by her mother and a stepfather who abused her. She married, and worked in the dump sorting through the garbage in order to make a living.

Two years ago her husband, who was also abusive, was killed in an accident in the dump, leaving her a widow with six children. She is in her early thirties. She now works in the school, cleaning and helping to make snacks for the children, and also does some housework for the sisters at their home.

All of her children are at school and the eldest, her son Marlin, will be one of this year's graduates. It is Marlin who wants to be a doctor. In spite of the circumstances of his life, Altagracia told us that she "thanks God for her children, and loves them all". And it is clear that she does. Because of her love and care, her children are among the lucky ones. She was a remarkable example of grace and dignity in the most difficult circumstances.

Orphans, whose parents have died of AIDS, gather for a meal prepared by mvano members.

Just before we left the school, Altagracia took us for a walk through the dump. This was a final brutal reminder that the children we were leaving behind are not like other children we know. Their circumstances are very different. One of the worst sights we saw was two small children crawling out of a large cardboard carton where they had been sleeping. This was their "home".

It would be easy to feel totally helpless and overwhelmed by the problems of Guatemala. It would also be very naive to think that things will improve there quickly or easily.

However, there is hope. In the courage of the people of FAMDEGUA who are

fighting for acknowledgement of human rights violations, in Maria Saquic's pursuit of justice in the death of her husband, in the dedication of Sister Gladys to her students, in the work of Sister Ann and Sister Anselma within the squatters' community of Jocatales, and in the work of our missionaries Joe Reed, Ken and Kennis Kim, there is a real sense of God's presence and His love for the people of Guatemala.

For those of us who were able to go on this trip, it was an unforgettable experience. We were made aware of many areas of need, and over the next couple of months we will be considering here at Knox just what our response should be to all that we have learned on this trip.

While we cannot expect to solve all the problems of Guatemala, we do have it in our power to make a difference in the lives of at least some of the people we met and, as their brothers and sisters in Christ, I believe we have an obligation to do what we can.

EXPERIENCES OF MALAWI, THE WARM HEART OF AFRICA

by Charlotte Brown

The air was electric with a spirit of energy and excitement. The rhythmic and graceful movement of dance and song in beautiful four part harmony filled the air as a sea of figures in blue and white dresses paraded past the guests seated in the stands. Soon the entire place was alive with movement and music as members of the Women's Guild encircled the inside of Blantyre's Chichiri Stadium. The celebration had begun!

Hundreds of women, representing thirteen presbyteries, along with men and children, gathered for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Women's Guild (Mvano) of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Blantyre Synod. The theme, *Striving towards our Goal – Christ our Hope* was chosen for the two-day event.

The history of the Women's Guild was creatively presented through music, drama and dance. From the arrival of the first Scottish missionaries in 1878, to the official launching of the Women's Guild in Blantyre in 1948, continuing to the present, women and young girls re-enacted the var-

Photos left to right: 50th Anniversary Celebrations of Women's Guild, Chichiri Stadium; Mirriam Banda, left, Rev. Alice Kyei-Auti, centre with Mercy Chilapula at Chigodi Women's Centre; Women's Guild, St. Andrew's, Mzuzu.

ious phases of the mvano, dressed in the uniforms appropriate to each time period.

Musical selections by choirs, dramatic presentations, addresses by special guests, the cutting of an anniversary cake and singing and dancing filled the first day's program. Greetings were extended on behalf of the Women's Missionary Society and the Atlantic Mission Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and from the Church of Scotland. The first day of celebration was an exciting and full day for one who had only arrived in Malawi the previous day.

The Sunday Thanksgiving Service began at 8:30 am with the Right Honorable Justin Malewezi, Vice President of the Republic of Malawi and his wife as guests of honor. Praise was offered in song and dance and through the spoken word. I was invited to preach a sermon in English, Malawi's official language.

The sermon in Chichewa, the national language, was given by Rev. G. H. Mputeni, Deputy General Secretary of Blantyre Synod. The Vice President's wife presented certificates of Recognition for service to older members of the mvano as the 50th Anniversary Celebration drew to a close.

The days following offered the opportunity to meet with missionaries Clara Henderson, Glenn and Linda Inglis, church leaders and to visit city congregations and the Blantyre Synod Offices.

Mrs. Mercy Chilapula, who administers the Women's Desk for the Synod, has been invited to visit Canada in the spring of 1999 as a guest of the Women's Missionary Society and International Ministries. If possible, she may also visit the Atlantic Mission Society.

Seventeen full time Women Workers are employed by the Synod. Their work is carried out in 13 presbyteries where they advise local congregations, hold training classes and refresher courses for leaders of the Women's Guild. They also conduct follow up programs to visit women who have been trained at the Chigodi Women's Centre.

Opened in 1968, the Centre under the direction of Rev. Alice Kyei-Auti, Presbyterian Church of Ghana and Mirriam Chipeta Banda offers training courses for women on a variety of subjects, as finances allow.

One of the highlights of my visit in Blantyre Synod was to meet Dr. Vera Chirwa, Malawi's longest serving political prisoner. She visited Canada and received an honorary doctorate from Knox College in 1994. A lawyer by profession, Dr. Chirwa founded the Malawi CARER in 1994 after being released from prison.

CARER (Centre for Advice, Research, Education and Rights) seeks to ensure that human rights become a reality for all Malawians, especially poor people in the rural areas. Chirwa also founded

Women's Voice in 1993. This organization seeks to participate actively in the promotion of the rights of women and children.

An unforgettable experience was a visit to the rural area of Milare. Under the shade of a large tree, we were greeted and welcomed with singing by three hundred smiling faces. The boys and girls, all orphans, whose parents have died of AIDS, gather together once a week to enjoy a special meal prepared by members of mvano. The women bring what they have to share with the children who now live with extended family members in this village.

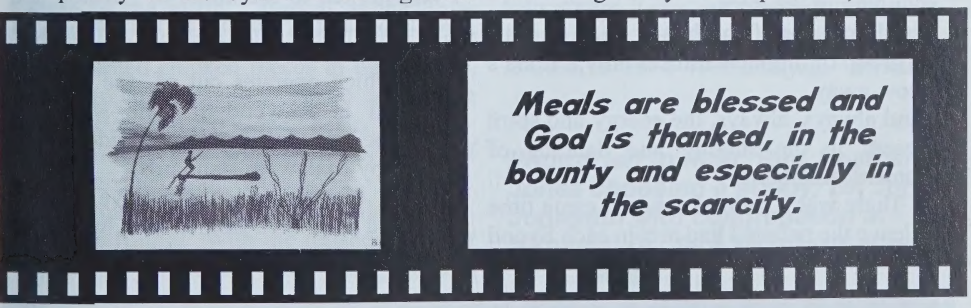
The presbytery worker, Violet Chavura, spoke of their hope to build a kitchen facility to aid in easier preparation of meals for the children. As a beginning step, seven thousand bricks, which had already been made, were in the process of being baked. Three large slab cakes provided by Allison Cameron of Scotland were cut into 300 pieces so that each child might enjoy a special treat after the food.

Travelling to the north, I enjoyed the hospitality of the Synod of Livingstonia and in particular that of Rev. Heather Jones, who welcomed me in her home in Mzuzu for a week. Heather, appointed by International Ministries for a five-year term, has recently begun work as chaplain for a number of schools within this Synod for which the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian has oversight. Bruce Hickling and Kevin Savage, young Canadian Presbyterian volunteers with engineering expertise are also working within this Synod for a two-year term.

Bandawe presbytery has oversight of eighteen schools. The Education Secretary, Rev. Maxwell Banda spoke of the priority of encouraging families to recognize the importance of providing an education for girls as well as boys. Ninety girls study at the secondary school in Bandawe. Two forms (similar to grades) are offered with the hope that with further financial assistance, two more forms will be available to complete their education.

This will offer the girls an opportunity to learn a trade and will hopefully help to break the cycle of marriage and poverty as the only option for young girls. The head schoolmistress, the teachers and the girls warmly received us. A program of energetic music and lively drama was presented under the trees, followed by a tour of the school's facilities on the compound.

It is said that people who go to Africa always seem to leave their hearts. Reflecting on my own experience, I believe this to be true. Malawi, whose name means reflected light or bright haze, seems appropriate for a country peopled by one of the



Photos left to right: Charlotte with Mvano members at Chichiri Stadium; artistic replications of Lake Malawi.

most courteous and gentle spoken groups in the world.

It is also known as the warm heart of Africa. I asked several people why this was so. At first I thought it might be due to the hot weather the country enjoys much of the year. However, upon further reflection, I felt I knew the answer even before I asked the question. I came to realize through the experiences of my visit that Malawian people have very warm hearts.

It has been over a month since my return to Canada but memories of my visit to Malawi are still very fresh in my mind:
- Gentle, gracious people taking time to greet and speak to one another,
- warm hospitality, church services filled to overflowing,
- markets bustling with activity,
- hot, dry, dusty days,
- majestic mountains, green hillsides of tea and coffee plantations,
- white, sandy beaches along a crystal clear blue lake,
- beautiful wooden carvings,
- a morning wake-up call of baboons swinging in the trees,
- smiling faces of children,
- a group of hippopotamuses only a stone's throw away,
- and always, always, the energy and spirit present in the singing and dancing of women celebrating.

There was a sadness when it came time to leave the people I had met in each Synod but the images, the sights and sounds, will continue to remain with me long after my return from the warm heart of Africa.

Malawi: The Blessing of Food

by Heather Jones

Food is a big part of our culture in Canada. We take may opportunities to eat together. Many of our happiest memories focus on holiday feasts, much of our culture is defined by the food we eat. As Canadians, a good proportion of our social lives revolve around sharing meals. One question many people ask in messages I have received here is "What is the food like?"

The staple food for most Malawians is 'nsima' (pronounced seema). It is made from maize (corn) flour. The finished nsima is a bland, thick porridge-like substance, usually served with 'relish'.

I had my first nsima last weekend, when I was invited to the home of Keston and Vesta Mhango. Keston is the second in command of the Primary Health Care program which operates out of the Mission Hospital at Ekwendeni. The Mhangos would be considered an upper middle class family by Malawian standards.

Both Keston and Vesta have regular jobs, and they have just finished building a

The Scripture reminded the congregation of the blessings of God, their true Light and Guide for each day.

new three bedroom house with a guest annex at the back of the house. Along with their two school age children, Vesta's three sisters live there. It is common for couples who have regular income to support relatives who are not so fortunate.

The dinner party consisted of three church of Scotland missionaries, myself, and three of the Mhangos. Seven-year-old Vithu was a little shy so she chose to eat with her aunts in the back courtyard. Four-year-old Lusinga was happy to share the table with the guests, and to practise his already excellent English.

The meal began with the hostess coming to each of our seats with a kettle of warm water and a basin. Luckily for me, I was not first, since I didn't know what to do!

I watched as the other guests held out their hands and had water poured over them. Since Malawians do not use utensils for eating, we were being washed up for dinner!

I watched as others used their fingers to form small pats of nsima, and scoop up some of the relish. Typical of wealthier Malawian families, our 'relish' that night was roasted chicken pieces in light gravy, leafy green vegetables cooked with some chilis, rice, and red kidney beans. In poorer families there would be only one of these relishes, sometimes none.

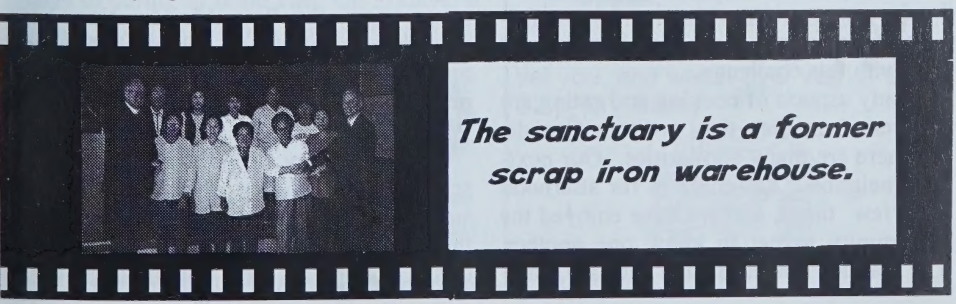
Nsima by itself is not particularly tasty, but it is filling! With the relishes it was a very satisfying meal. After eating chicken with gravy, greens in light sauce, and the sticky nsima, I was glad to see Vesta coming around the table again with the kettle and the basin.

Even though I am only receiving a 'living allowance' here, I can still afford to eat much better than most Malawians. My flat mate and I made nsima once, with a lot of help from our neighbour, but generally we eat meals more typically western in style.

Many things are never available in the stores here; other things are available only sometimes. For instance, for the first three weeks I was here, there was no fresh milk of any variety in any of the stores in Mzuzu. For two weeks we could not find margarine anywhere. I have never seen prepared salad dressings, although I was fortunate enough to find light vegetable oil and white vinegar on my first shopping trip, so we are able to make our own dressing. However despite the shortages, we still eat quite well.

Meat is very expensive. We pay the equivalent of Cdn$5 per kilo for ground beef: the fresh sausages were Cdn$4.00 per kilo. Other items are similarly expensive. Butter costs Cdn$5 per pound. Fruit juice is Cdn$10 for a four-litre jug. Inflation

Photos left to right: Rev. Heather Jones choosing a puppy; Dr. John Johnston with congregation at Nirhama, Dr. Jack McIntosh at right.



is a serious problem here as well. Powdered milk has more than doubled in price in six months. While we can afford the inflated prices, it is very hard on most Malawians: wages are not increasing at anything near the rate of inflation.

Some varieties of vegetables are relatively plentiful and so affordable right now. At the market I can buy four or five tomatoes for Cdn$.75. Pineapples are Cdn$1. Lemons (which are deep green, though fully ripe) are less than Cdn$.05 each. Bananas are available all year. Right now it is possible to buy 15 to 20 bananas for about 75 cents Canadian.

Another interesting aspect of cooking here in a tropical country is dealing with the bugs. After my first experience of cooking rice, when the larva hatched as the water heated up, before being killed in the boiling water, I went through the package of rice and removed all the bug larvae.

Similarly, all flour must be sifted before use to remove the weevils. Cockroaches are everywhere, and keeping them out of food is an ongoing struggle. I have sent home for a supply of zip lock bags to help deal with this challenge.

Many aspects of cooking and eating are different here than they were in Canada, but there are many similarities. Our next-door neighbour has come in for afternoon tea a few times, and we have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know one another. The pot luck dinners I have attended, have been much like the same dinners at home in the bounty and variety of foods.

And everywhere that I have been to eat, recognizing the blessing of food, and the fellowship that comes from eating together, meals are blessed and God is thanked, in the bounty and especially in the scarcity. I may live half way 'round the world, but some customs and some aspects of culture are much like home. Thanks be to God!

"The Nirhama Way"

by John Alexander Johnston

A study in contrasts. Worshipping with a tiny Korean congregation on the island of Shikolu Japan, October 11, 1998, was worlds apart from the pomp and ceremony of the 90th Anniversary of the Korean Christian Church, held the previous day.

The Nirhama church is reached only after a seven-hour drive from Osaka, and is the sole Korean congregation on this rather large 18,794 sq km island. For the past seven years, the Rev. Ahn Jin Nam has served a constituency which had been brought to Japan as slave labour in the period between 1910 and the end of World War II.

The sanctuary in Nirhama is a former scrap iron warehouse with rotting wood supports and a leaking roof. Worship began that Sunday with Church School comprised of six young girls and conducted by the

minister. Nine women and four men formed the morning congregation. This was larger than usual, attracted by the presence of two honoured guests, Drs. Jack McIntosh and John Johnston. What emotions were evoked when the old upright piano accompanied the thirteen people in singing that old familiar hymn, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing".

Over the past several years a warm relationship has developed between the Korean congregation and the various Japanese churches on the island. Architectural plans have now been approved for the construction of a home for Seniors on the property. Building costs will be partially met through financial support sought from groups in Korea and by gifts of the local Japanese.

Of immediate concern is the need to replace the aging warehouse, alias sanctuary, of the small Nirhama flock. Where will the money be found? Although the congregation is growing (eight adults baptized during the ministry of Mr. Ahn), it is still pitifully small and its communicants cannot be numbered among the well-to-do.

Quite by accident, the people discovered its gift for making Kimchi, a Korean hot pickle concoction, now eaten by many Japanese as well as Koreans. Word spread regarding this tasty dish prepared by the congregation.

On Mondays, the minister, his wife and teenaged son prepare the Chinese lettuce, vegetables and other condiments for three days of curing in brine vats. On Fridays, a small group of women pack the finished product for distribution across Japan. Upwards of Cdn$50,000 is being raised annually for the Building Fund, thanks to the support of customers across the country.

The Scripture reading that October Sunday (Thanksgiving Day in Canada) reminded the congregation of the blessings of God, their true Light and Guide for each day. For 70 years the Korean Christian Church in Japan has been a valued partner of our denomination. The story of Nirhama reminds us once more how much we can learn from the example and dedication of our brothers and sisters in Christ from across the Pacific.

- John Johnston is Minister Emeritus, MacNab St Church, Hamilton, and Convenor, International Ministries Committee.

Photos left to right: John Johnston, left with youth at Nirhama Church; model of Nirhama Church.

Drive Carefully with Prayer

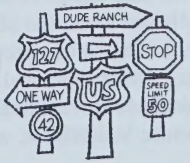
by Gladys Nolan

Driving a car is a privilege. In my senior years, I find going with the flow of traffic is best for me rather than cutting into two ways, even it means driving a little out of my way to get back in line to the signal lights. They must be obeyed at all times, or there's real trouble.

I say a prayer as I buckle up. Please God, guide my head and hands as I drive this day. As usual, prayer gives me courage and confidence, but it is up to me to obey all traffic rules.

As with life, we must know when to Stop, use Caution, and Go!

May God bless all drivers, and give them wisdom. "I will instruct you in the way you should go: I will counsel you, and watch over you" (Psalm 32:8, NIV Bible).



CENTRAL AMERICA UPDATE

Photos by Sr. Marguerita Navarro

Presbyterian World Service & Development
November 21, 1998.

Hurricane Mitch is now considered to be the strongest and most damaging hurricane to ever hit the Caribbean and Central America. Torrential rains and 180 km winds caused catastrophic floods and landslides—often washing away entire neighborhoods. The hurricane wiped out roads, bridges and water and electrical systems, leaving hundreds of thousands of people homeless and without access to food, clean water and medical aid. Major damages were suffered by vast areas of agricultural land, some of which may not produce crops for many years to come.

Hurricane Mitch struck a region already facing considerable social and economic difficulties—making recovery and rehabilitation efforts a daunting task. The most vulnerable to the disaster were the poorest of the poor—the very people with whom PWS&D's partners have worked over the years. All of PWS&D's partners report that they are facing similar challenges—contaminated water, no access to remote communities due to the destruction of roads, food shortages due to the loss of the fall harvest (rice, beans, corn, sorghum, vegetables, etc), loss of homes and housing, and increased incidence of disease (diarrhea, foot fungus, respiratory disease).

PWS&D has been able to respond quickly; sending initial immediate payments totaling $65,000 to PWS&D partners in the region. As the following indicates, current relief efforts are focussing on meeting immediate needs by providing food, water, shelter and medical supplies, particularly to people who have been isolated by the disaster. However the process of rebuilding will take many years.

First hand reports coming in from our partners highlight the need and response. In Honduras the Christian Council for Development (CCD), who has been working with Action by Churches Together to address the emergency needs, writes:

"One helicopter filled with food from CCD managed to fly to Alugaren early this morning, and CCD is hoping that two more such flights can take place later today. By tomorrow, Mexican officials who arrived yesterday with helicopters, planes, food, and hundreds of rescue specialists will take charge of distributing aid by air to residents in that region of the departments of Valle and Francisco Morazan. CCD will transport food by truck to the end of broken highways in the region and people from Curaren, Alugaren, Reytoca, and La Libertad are going to carry it in on their backs and by mule".

International Ministries Staff in the region are all safe, and working on relief efforts with our partners. Denise Van Wissen, working with Soynica in a particularly hard hit region of...

HURRICANE MITCH:

Nicaragua writes:

"This is where the highway disappears, as the small river (a few meters across) widened out to at least 50 m or more. The devastation that the river has left is like some kind of desert or rugged beach; trees and branches stripped of their bark strewn everywhere, and sand distributed over what was forest. Other parts made me feel as if we were in the Grand Canyon, because the river had carved into the cliffs on either side, exposing rock, where before was lush green growth and trees. It's all so incredible that even standing there looking at it with your own two eyes you just can't believe it...

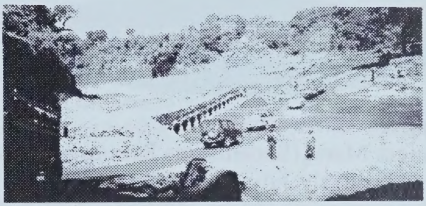
"It was great to hear of PWS&D's $10,000 donation to Soynica. Thank you! We still hope to promote an attempt at a third planting & harvest, since of course the second, which promised to be bountiful, was destroyed by Mitch, the first having failed due to drought! (The saying, it never rains but it pours is always applicable here in Nicaragua!!)

The not-so-good news is that it's true that we've been set back who knows how many decades. An emergency situation such as this is a hard blow to sustainable development programs, because we're suddenly forced to give hand-outs. We don't want to foster dependency, so we're still trying to help people help themselves."

WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?

PRAYERS. Our partners and International Ministries staff continually ask for support in prayer.

PETITION FOR DEBT RELIEF. The countries in the region desperately need a Jubillee Year. It has been very difficult, even before the hurricane, for these countries to pay the huge debts owed to governments and multilateral lending agencies (World Bank and International Monetary Fund). While some governments have cancelled debt payments, Canada has only postponed debt payments. They really need full debt forgiveness.



You can:

Write Hon. Paul Martin, Minister of Finance, House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0A6, calling for Canada to forgive all debt owed by Central American countries.

Sign the petition of the Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative (PO Box 772, Toronto, ON, M4Y 2N6 tel: 416-922-1592 fax: 416-922-0957 email: jubilee@devp.org) calling on international leaders to cancel debt to the backlog of debts of the most impoverished nations. It will be presented to the Canadian government and to the leaders of the G-8 countries in June 1999.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT continues to be an effective way to support the people in Central America. Your funds will continue to supply appropriate goods and get them to those in need, and they will help begin the long process of rebuilding. Cheques can be made out to your local congregation and marked PWS&D Hurricane Relief or sent directly to PWS&D.

Hurricane Mitch devastated an area already gripped in poverty. We need to be committed to rebuild.

For more information contact:

Presbyterian World Service & Development
50 Wynford Drive, North York, Ontario M3C 1J7
(416) 441-1111, toll-free 1-800-619-7301, fax (416) 441-2825
e-mail pwsd@presbyterian.ca
www.presbyterian.ca/lifemission/pwsd/index.html

IN MEMORIAM

Frances Marie Rivers

Frances Marie (Shoemaker) Rivers, passed away suddenly July 27, 1998, while enjoying an evening swim. Frances will be remembered for her love of life and her Christian faith.

An astute businesswoman, Frances, with her husband Jean Pierre, successfully operated businesses in the hotel/restaurant industry for twenty-five years. In addition to the demands of business, Frances always found time to lend a helping hand. She was honoured for her volunteer work with the Canadian Cancer Society and the Governor General's award in recognition of her significant contribution to community and to Canada.

Born in Southern Saskatchewan, Frances completed high school graduation before moving to BC during the difficult depression era. With her characteristic enthusiasm and determination, she found work and became involved in community life. With her husband, she moved first to Salmon Arm and later, in 1955, to Nelson where they raised their four children. Frances and Jean Pierre finished their business life in Salmo, retiring to Cranbrook in 1976, where Frances immediately immersed herself in volunteer work in the church and the community. In 1989, she returned to Nelson to restore the old family home.

Frances loved the arts, especially literature and music. She brought these values into her home, encouraging her children and grandchildren to pursue education, the arts and a love of the outdoors.

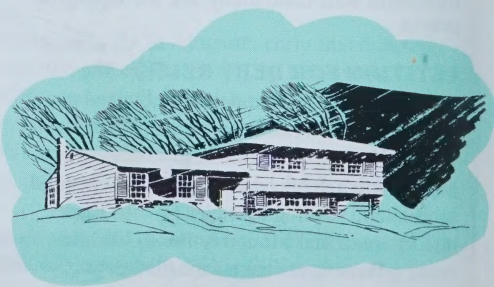
In retirement, Frances was known to take a break from huckleberry-picking to swim across a small mountain lake. The outdoor world was natural to her. She also enjoyed

- Frances Rivers

cross-country skiing, softball, and swimming, and despite the demands of business, Frances always found the time to enjoy these activities with her family.

Frances was predeceased by her husband, Jean Pierre, and her brothers Grant, Donald and Melvin. She is survived and lovingly remembered by her children, Donald (Candace) of Cranbrook, Betty Anne Rivers-Wang (Charles) of White Rock, Gloria Rivers-Charnell (Daryl) of Richmond, and David Rivers of Wardner.

She is also survived by her brothers Carl, Glenn and Bruce and her sister Sylvia. She was a wonderful role model and will be missed by her grandchildren, Jennie and Joanna Wang; Larissa, Keith and Michael Rivers; Daniel and Julia Charnell; Sheena Rivers; and Gary Dunkin.



The Earnest Prayer

She asked to be made like her Saviour
He took her right then at her word
And sent her a heart crushing burden
Till the depths of her soul were stirred.

She asked for a faith strong and simple
He permitted the dark clouds to come
And she staggered by faith through the darkness
For the storm had obscured the sun.

She prayed to be filled with a passion
Of love for lost souls and for God
And again in response to her longing
She sank 'neath the chastening rod.

She wanted a place in His Vineyard
He took her away from her home
And placed her among hardened sinners
Where she - humbly - stood all alone.

She saw she must give up ambitions
Which had been her "air castles" for years
But as she knelt in consecration
She whispered "Amen" through her tears.

She asked to lean hard on her Saviour
He took all her supports away
Till no earthly friend could comfort her
And she could do nothing but pray.

I saw her go out in the Vineyard
To harvest the ripened grain
Her eyes were still moistened with weeping
Her heart was still throbbing with pain.

But many a heart that was broken
And many a wretched life
Was made to thank God for her coming
And rejoice in the price of her strife.

She prayed to be made like her Saviour
And the burdens she gave him to bear
Had been but a loving answer
To the earnesty of her prayer.

Reginald McClelland

- Submitted by Roberta G. McClelland. Roberta found this in her grandfather's Bible among a collection of his poems, written some 70 years ago.

INDEX 1998

AFRICA

Cameroon

Dear Friends - Sean and Lezlie Allison - May/Jun 31

Malawi

Dear Friends - The Inglis Family - Sept/Oct 31
Mission in Action - David & Miriam Barrie - Jul/Aug 31
Dear Friends - Clara Henderson - Nov/Dec 35

Swaziland

My Story: Journey to Africa - Jan/Feb 14

ASIA

Bangladesh

Hope to the Hopeless - Nov/Dec 5

China

The Gate is Open - Mar/Apr 12
Pray for China - Mar/Apr 37

India

Life in Jobat - Jan/Feb 22
Dear Friends - Catherine Inglis - Jan/Feb 33; Jul/Aug 32
The India Experience (message from the President) - Mar/Apr 9
Dear Friends - Dominic Prosser - Mar/Apr 32
Pray Participate Promote - Jul/Aug 7
Mission in Action - Bob & Linda King - Jul/Aug 36; Nov/Dec 32
Mission in Action - Margaret & Jake Vanderzweerde - Sept/Oct 32
Mission in Action - Clarence McMullen - Sept/Oct 36

Japan

Dear Friends - Michael and Wendy Lessard-Clouston - Jan/Feb 32; Jul/Aug 34
Dear Friends - Jack and Beth McIntosh - Mar/Apr 36
A Handful of Sand - Jul/Aug 9

Middle East

Dear Friends - The Barsoum Family - May/June 33

Nepal

Dear Friends - Update on Dr. Rokaya - Jan/Feb 30
Dear Friends - Margaret Vanderzweerde - Jan/Feb 30
Dear Friends - Richard and Ling Schwarz - May/Jun 34

Taiwan

Dear Friends - Joy Randall - Mar/Apr 31
Dear Friends - Georgine Caldwell - Mar/Apr 33
Dear Friends - Lillian Sparling - May/Jun 35
Mission in Action - Jack & Betty Geddes - Jul/Aug 36

CANADA

Dear Friends - Donald MacKay - Mar/Apr 32
Dear Friends - Nan & Hubert Budding - Mar/Apr 34
News from the Duffs - May/Jun 37

CENTRAL AMERICA

Thank you to WMS for Gift - Mar/Apr 37

Cuba

United in Christ - Jan/Feb 3
Destination:Cuba - Jan/Feb 4

El Salvador

Dear Friends - Jennifer Melanson - Mar/Apr 34

Guatemala

An Event Worth Noting - Jul/Aug 37

Haiti

A Tale of Two Women - May/Jun 11

Nicaragua

Mission in Action - Denise Van Wissen - Jul/Aug 32

EUROPE

Romania

English Boys' Choir in Romania - Jan/Feb 21

Hungary

The Debrechen Experience - Jan/Feb 8
Dear Friends - Anita Kmecz - May/June 32;

Nov/Dec 33

EDITORIAL
Chickadee Palm Print (a poem) - Mar/Apr 3
Part of the Family of God - May/Jun 3
Coming Full Circle - Jul/Aug 3
Remembering Autumn - Sept/Oct 3
Gifts of the Heart - Nov/Dec 3

GENERAL
The National Presbyterian Youth Summit - Mar/Apr 4
Cracking the Code (Nestlé) - Mar/Apr 15
Doing Justice: On Emily, on Pain and New Life - Mar/Apr 18
Puzzles - Moses - Jan/Feb 20; Old Testament Prophets - Mar/Apr 20; Couples of the Bible - May/June 21; Elijah - Jul/Aug 16; Trees - Sept/Oct 18
My Garden-My Mission - May/Jun 5
Senior Moments - May/Jun 6
Giving Birth to Spiritual Gifts - May/Jun 8
Breakfast in the Slow Lane - May/Jun 15
The Comfort of a Mother's Arms - May/Jun 17
Dr. Marion Powell - May/June 18
A Message from the Moderator of the 123rd General Assembly - Jul/Aug 5
To Weep is Human - Jul/Aug 11
"Contrary-Wise" - Jul/Aug 15
Are We Ready To Change The Wineskins - Sept/Oct 4
Undisturbed she hammers away at her stories - Sept/Oct 10
Mission: Ever Expanding Circles - Sept/Oct 15
Mission in the 1940s - Sept/Oct 16
Catriona LeMay Doan: An Inspiring Role - Nov/Dec 10
A Christmas Straight from the heart - Nov/Dec 30

IN MEMORIAM
Mavis Jean Hyndman - Mar/Apr 22
Bernard Embree - Mar/Apr 22
Dr. Marion Powell - May/Jun 18
Eileen Ward - May/June 27
Mildred F. Whitton - Jul/Aug 30
Olive Ross Cole Pogue - Jul/Aug 30
Jean Lane - Sept/Oct 23

MEDITATIONS/WORSHIP SERVICES/PRAYER/POEMS
"I"-Witness (in all issues)
Visiting the Old Homestead (a poem) - Jan/Feb 8
Self Pity - Jan/Feb 23
Keeping the Faith - Jan/Feb 26
Irene (a poem) - Jan/Feb 27
Trust in Him (a poem) - Mar/Apr 11
The Reason for Easter (a poem) - Mar/Apr 14
Aging (haiku) - Mar/Apr 17
Here in this Holy, Jagged Place - Mar/Apr 17
Memories of Easters Past - Mar/Apr 21
Easter Worship - Mar/Apr 25
Clay (a poem) - Mar/Apr 40
The Lesson Learned (a poem) - May/Jun 4
Miracle of May (a poem) - May/Jun 7
Mother's Poem (a poem) - May/Jun 10
Not My Will But Thine? (a poem) - May/Jun 14
Retirement Home with Life Care (a pantoum) - May/Jun 16
Parents (a quote) - May/Jun 26
Mother's Immortality - May/Jun 27
Haiku - May/Jun 47
Soul Spring - May/Jun 48
The Spider (a poem) - Jul/Aug 5
A Garden is Such a Quiet Place (a poem) - Jul/Aug 6
Praise to my Lord (a poem) - Jul/Aug 12
A Landscape of Absence - Jul/Aug 13
Old Mill Stream (a poem) - Jul/Aug 17
Share the Blessings - Jul/Aug 35
Loaves and Fishes (a song) - Jul/Aug 43
Quiet (haiku) - Jul/Aug 44
As the Decade Ends (a poem) - Sept/Oct 8
Lights (a poem) - Sept/Oct 19
Thanksgiving Worship - Sept/Oct 20
Faith Answered (a poem) - Sept/Oct 23
September (a poem) - Sept/Oct 24
The Old Sheep Pasture (a poem) - Sept/Oct 25
God's Fall Fair (a poem) - Sept/Oct 26
We are Special (a poem) - Sept/Oct 35
I'm on a Committee! (a poem) - Sept/Oct 43
Daring Hope - Nov/Dec 12
By Hand - Nov/Dec 15
Christmas Worship 1998 - Nov/Dec 16
Child of the King (a poem) - Nov/Dec 28
Christmas Dawn (a poem) - Nov/Dec 29
The Gift of Smiles - Nov/Dec 30
Early Winter Scenario (a poem) - Nov/Dec 48

STUDY/PROGRAMS/ RESOURCES/CRAFTS

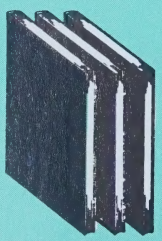
Program -

Weaving a Wreath of Service (An Installation Liturgy) - Jan/Feb 24
Wandering in the Wilderness (a Bible Study) - Mar/Apr 23
Craft Instructions - Mar/Apr 28
"I Have Gifts" - May/Jun 23
A-L-E-R-T ... - May/Jun 25
Commissioning of Officers - Jul/Aug 26
The Guide - A Scissor-cut - May/Jun 22
A Harvest Centerpiece (a craft) - Sept/Oct 14
Theology and Quilting: Quilts That Tell a Story - Nov/Dec 36

1998-99 Mission Study
Mission Study Resources - Jul/Aug 28
1998/99 Learning Sharing Project - Sept/Oct 22

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY -
Our Readers Write - Jan/Feb 35; Nov/Dec 46
Officers and Executive Members - Jan/Feb 48; Jul/Aug 48
Council '98 - Jul/Aug 20
Honorary Memberships 1997 - Jul/Aug 14
Certificate of Recognition 1997 - Jul/Aug 14
10 tips for reaching younger women - Jul/Aug 18
Estimates/Presbyterial/Synodical Givings - Jul/Aug 19
A Challenge from the President - Nov/Dec 4
Books/Resources - (in all issues)
Circulation News - (in all issues)
Forward in Faith - (in all issues)
In Remembrance - (in all issues)
In the Society - (in all issues)
News - (in all issues)

CANADA/INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES
Who and Where - Nov/Dec 21



BOOKS

Order from:
The WMS Book Room
50 Wynford Drive
North York, ON M3C 1J7
416-441-1111 Ext. 239/240
E-mail: Bookroom@presbyterian.ca
Hours: Mon-Fri-9:00-4:45

TOLL FREE NUMBER 1-800-619-7301
Please do not send payment with your order. (An invoice including postage and applicable tax will be sent with your order.) Please include name and location of congregation. **Note: VISA and Mastercard now accepted.**

Spirit Mourn, Spirit Dance: Wisdom for the Decade and Beyond, edited by Rebekah Chevalier, Toronto: United Church Publishing House, 1998. $18.95.
Rebekah Chevalier, editor of Mandate the United Church's journal devoted to issues of global justice and peace, has compiled a collection of poetry, hymns, liturgies, short essays and playlets. Most are presented in English; some in French. The majority are written by Canadian women from a range of denominations and theological perspectives. All but four of the fifty-six contributors are female This publication appears at the close of the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women 1988-1998, and attempts to continue the thrust of that significant international project. The Decade attempted to empower women to challenge oppressive structures and affirm their own contributions in giving visibility to perspectives and actions in the struggle for justice, peace and the integrity of creation. It sought to free the churches from racism, sexism and classism and to encourage them to take actions in solidarity with women.

Four key issues emerge from this global

focus and are picked up by the Canadians: women's full and creative participation in the life of the church; violence against women in its various forms and dimensions; the global economic crisis and its effects on women, and racism and xenophobia and their impact on women.

Of many excellent contributions, comment on but three must suffice. Alyson Huntly, a diaconal minister from Ottawa, offers 'To Ruth' a reflection on the lead characters from the Old Testament book of that name. She honours Naomi, Boaz and Ruth 'and all those who have discovered that family is not built like a wall but grown like a garden.'

Karen Scarlett, a Toronto writer, presents 'Gram' a young woman's memoir of her grandmother (near the end of your days) whose papers and other memorabilia she had opportunity to sort through with her mother. Eva Jackson appears in many ways like her granddaughter. In some respects, however, she was quite different.

In 'Joseph's Story' Kenneth Stright, a Presbyterian minister from Pictou, NS assumes the role of Mary's betrothed but troubled partner. We are exposed to the profound ambiguity of a male, observing disconcerting yet wonderful things in the one he loves (pregnant not by him), accepting to stand with her in solidarity and faith.

This book will provide many creative resources for congregational worship and devotional life, as well as group discussion. It is recommended for all church libraries.

- Reviewed by Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Holst, a lecturer at the University of Calgary. He was a Lutheran pastor, missionary and church executive for twenty-five years and his current work focuses on spirituality, the comparative study of indigenous people and cross-cultural awareness.

At The Gates of the Forbidden City: Women of Faith, Beijing, the Ecumenical Decade and Beyond. $15.95

In 1997, the Women's Inter-Church Council awarded a World Day of Prayer grant to a group of women who had attended the 1995 UN Women's Conference in Beijing. Their project was the book *At the Gates of the Forbidden City*, which was launched at the Daring Hope Conference.

The book records the experiences and views of Canadian women of faith who have participated in the global women's movement throughout the Ecumenical Decade and at the Beijing conference.

Responding to the questions "What happened at Beijing?" and "What does it mean today for Canadians, for women and men, for the work of the Canadian churches and

Shoes From Heaven

From a wealth of experience in Christian Education, Rev. William Moody has put together an 86-page book of Bible-based stories, object talks, surprise features, musical items, games, contests, etc. to assist in teaching Bible principles to children and young teens. Also included are valuable teaching tips for use in church or home. Send $4.95 plus $1.50 for mailing to – Rev. W. H. Moody, 413 - 3097 Palmer Drive, Burlington, ON L7M 4G8.

Education and ACTION program 1998-1999

FASHIONING FREEDOM

Following up on fair trade coffee campaign while beginning a "Wear Fair" action that focusses on the garment and footwear industry.

TEN DAYS for Global Justice
947 Queen St. East, Suite 201
Toronto, ON M4M 1J9
Tel: (416) 463-5312
FAX: (416) 463-5569
E-mail: tendays@web.net

brings together a wide range of insights, opinions, and theological reflections from over 50 participants and contributors.

Focussing on critical areas such as violence, environment, economics, globalization, and inclusion of all in decision-making in church and society, it endeavours to "look at the world through women's eyes" and to challenge our churches to move toward the next millennium with a renewed commitment to proclaim the gospel message of true equality, justice, and peace.

Full of pictures, images, and possibilities, this 260-page book is an engaging contribution to the celebrations at the end of the Decade and a rich offering for the future.

Boarding Homes Ministry (Canada)
Linking congregations and homes

"Take my faith and my hopes and dreams with you." Resident

In despair there can still be dreams.
In affliction there may still be hope.
We strengthen each other in faith.

BHM is a charitable ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. It is funded by church grants, congregations, and by the donations of caring people. To make a donation or to receive our *Volunteer Resource Guide* please contact:
The Reverend Rodger Hunter
Postal Station Q Box 713 Toronto
Ontario M4T 2N5 416-992-4987

PC Pak
What's in it for you?
Resources for
Elders
Justice
Children & Youth
Evangelism
Worship
Stewardship
Mission
Contact your minister or the national office for more information
1-800-619-7301

Forward in Faith

A new year is upon us and the end of this century is near. Many thoughts have entered my mind. What should I reflect on? I remembered these three verses of scripture:

Teach us to number our days aright that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90:12 NIV

Daily I need to know the will of God. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. I Peter 4:10 NIV

I should use my gifts to serve others with a humble heart.

My flesh and my heart may fail but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Psalm 73:26 NIV

No matter what happens in life, I know that God is there.

I intend to let these verses be my guide for this year. So often, I want to make my own decisions contrary to the will of God. My prayer is:

Dear God, I place myself in your hands for your direction and may I serve you faithfully in this coming year. In His name. Amen.

Irene Nesbitt, Treasurer

GOD DWELLS WITH US

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 24-31,1999

To Order call Novalis:
1-800-387-7164
FAX 1-800-204-4140
49 Front St E, 2nd Floor
Toronto, ON M5E 1B3

"I"-Witness

The bed with its turned down sheets looked so inviting. Exhausted, I crawled in, and, with a deep sigh of satisfaction, pulled the covers up around my shoulders. As I relaxed, body heat turned the bed into a comfortable cocoon that seemed to enfold me with warm gentle arms. Just before falling asleep, I thought about faith and my bed.

Why was I so sure the bed would not collapse under my weight? Or that I wouldn't fall through it? True, it had never broken before, but where was the guarantee it would continue to hold me now?

There was none, but I had faith to trust myself to it. Of course, beds are made for the very purpose of holding people. People trust their weight to beds with never an anxious or worried thought about their safety. They have faith in the strength of their bed and, as they lie upon it, their faith becomes a proven fact.

Do we have the same faith in our Heavenly Father as we have in our bed? We have God's word that He is dependable and unchanging. As He has cared for us in the past, God will continue to do so for all our tomorrows.

God's name is "Love" and His Love never fails in its purpose to do us good. The "bed" of God's Love is ever ready and waiting for us with blankets turned down, inviting us to rest. When we accept God's invitation, the gentle hand of Jesus will pull the covers of His Love up over us. He will tuck us in and His promise never to leave or forsake His own will be our warmth and protection.

Here we are freely offered certainty, love, rest and protection. It all becomes a proven fact when our faith is placed in Him and we rest on "God's Bed".

E. Jean Abrams, Cobourg, ON

***Mission in Action* replaces "Dear Friends". Addresses of personnel may be found in the Nov/Dec issue or obtained from the Life & Mission Agency.**

Denise Van Wissen
Nicaragua

Autumn 1998 - Back in Nicaragua once again! I spent the first week in Managua with my "Soynica" workmates, then travelled to Somoto, where the northern office of Soynica is located.

'Soynica Norte' has been working in three of the northern 'departamentos' (region or province) for a few years and the Soynica Norte team has focused its efforts on educating women in basic, practical nutrition and health.

The workshops, group discussion, one-to-one conversation, radio programs and other educational methods include topics such as the benefits of including soybeans and green leaf extract in the daily diet (and their preparation), the importance of breastfeeding, and home gardening and hydroponics as routes toward attaining household food security. In addition, hundreds of women are making profitable use of their 500-córdoba (US$50) loan from the community banks, set up and run by Soynica.

Since my studies emphasized Food Security issues and Rural/Agricultural Development, my superiors at Soynica and I felt that I would best be placed with Soynica Norte, after four years of working with Soynica in Managua.

Getting to know Soynica Norte's many projects first-hand was a lot of fun! Going to and from one rural commmunity was quite the adventure: first, a one-hour bumpy 'bus' ride, then a two and a half hour uphill trudge!

On the way back down we missed the public transport, but we were lucky to hitch a ride on a big truck (the 'bus', too, is actually a converted military truck), as far as the main village, then hopped into the back of another NGO's pick-up, and that's when the downpour started! We huddled together along with three women we picked up along the way, trying to protect the green leaf extract-cookies we were transporting.

Barrio Libertad is a fairly new neighbourhood of Somoto; the houses were built when the war ended about eight years ago for demobilized soldiers and displaced families. The houses are small, brick box-like structures, but the people have managed to personalize them, some have built more rooms on, and many of the yards are well-planted with fruit trees and shrubs.

Soynica has trained Breastfeeding Promoters in Barrio Libertad, a few women have hydroponic garden containers, and a group of women have formed their 'bank', to obtain credit from Soynica. Since they were displaced to Honduras during the war, they know they can buy household products such as shampoo and soap more cheaply there, and they bring them back across the border to sell from their homes.

Another community I visited, Santa

Rosa, was also established by war-displaced families, but it's situated out in the country. A group of these campesinos (small-scale, poor farmers) received a planning course to make the best possible use of their limited land, and they really seemed to catch on to the ideas presented. Now we hope that they'll try to organize themselves to improve their situation, since up till the present many foreign organizations have been active in their community but since their projects weren't sustainable, a 'dependency syndrome' was created in these campesinos.

Please pray for our Soynica Norte team of 10 women, for physical and mental strength, discernment, and continued enthusiasm and commitment to their important work.

Denise

Heather Jones
Malawi

August 1998 - Malaria is a common illness here in Malawi. Most Malawians can cope with the disease, having built up some tolerance to the parasites. Those of us who have our first contact with the disease 'later in life' often have more difficulty fighting it off. I take a prophylactic which, while not 100% effective in preventing malarial fever, is very useful in preventing cerebral malaria, which, when contracted can kill quickly. The description of cerebral malaria I have heard is "it's not long from headache to death".

In many ways I am very fortunate. I am reasonably well protected by the prophylactic I take. When I became ill, I did not have to wonder if I had enough money to go to the hospital to be tested. Even though I get only a 'living allowance' while I am a volunteer here, I have health insurance.

When, after two days, I felt worse instead of better, there was no question: I went back to the hospital and was admitted. My hospital bill of some $2,500 kwacha (about Cdn$150) would have devastated most Malawian families, being more than three months salary for a typical full-time employee. (Many families are without any family member with regular full time employment.)

While effort is made to keep health care as inexpensive as possible here, medical treatment and especially hospitalization are too often considered a luxury. Because people fear the expense of medical services and drugs, many people postpone going to a clinic or hospital until they are seriously ill. Too many people wait too long. Even Malawians with some tolerance/resistance to malarial fever can - and do - die of the disease because they were afraid of the medical bill.

My experience of being in hospital was very different from what a typical Malawian would experience. I was admitted to the private ward. My meals were provided for me. My bed linens were provided and washed by, the hospital staff.

On the general wards, no meals are provided. It is expected that family members will bring all meals to patients. If the family lives too far away for this to be practical, then a 'guardian' will come and stay at the hospital with ingredients and utensils for preparing and serving meals. The guardians cook communally on fires provided by the hospital. The visiting family members or the 'resident' guardian are also responsible for providing and washing all linens and clothing used by the patients. In this way, hospital expenses are kept as low as possible.

Being in the hospital I learned some new things about Malawian culture. Unfortunately I was too ill to be very aware of all the people who visited me. I do know

that neighbours with whom I had never had a conversation heard that I was ill and visited or sent 'treats' to me in the hospital.

One of the Malawian customs for hospital visiting includes taking bottles of 'Fanta' to the patient. At five kwacha per bottle, 'Fanta' is a rare treat for many of my neighbours. It was overwhelming that they showed their concern by sharing this treat with me.

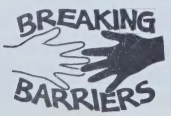
I am told that I woke up for all who came to see me. I know that there was a steady stream of visitors in the room, beginning as early as 6:45 am some days!

There is a wonderful sense of community within the neighbours here at "Church Square". Many of these people have no connection to the Synod or the Presbyterian church apart from the fact that they rent one of the houses in the Synod compound. Having only seen me in the neighbourhood for two months, still they came to visit and/or sent gifts.

The minister and various members of St. Andrew's church, where I usually worship came to visit. Members of the Synod staff came to visit, as did many of the other ex-patriot mission partners and volunteers. My 'students' and their parents were frequent visitors; they took me home with them for the week after I was discharged so that I could recuperate in some comfort.

I experienced Malawian caring in a wonderful way. I still have to struggle with the inequality in which I live. Had I been Malawian, I would know the caring, but not the assurance of adequate health care. As a Canadian, even in Malawi, I am significantly more fortunate than my equally deserving neighbours. May God grant me the strength, the courage, and the wisdom to use this privilege well.

Heather



Catherine McMullen
India

Autumn 1998 - I must tell you how much we appreciate the gifts of small sweaters, caps and blankets that you have so lovingly knitted and sent for the little children here.

Many people do not realize how cold it becomes in the Punjab. This winter has been the coldest in approximately 25 years with temperatures going as low as four degrees below zero.

I was able to give a blanket to my nine-year-old friend Preeti. She either covers her legs with it or uses it as a shawl. I was able to bring a wheelchair for Preeti last year from Canada and it has really changed her life.

Unfortunately Preeti's young mother did not know the necessity of having polio drops given to her baby daughter and, since she was less than a year old, she has been badly crippled by polio. Preeti and her family live in one room. Her father is employed part-time.

She is in Grade two at Baring School and doing well in her studies. She is a cheerful child and it has been a unique experience for many of her classmates to have Preeti in their class. I have been encouraged to see how helpful many of them are to her.

Some months ago I had the unique experience of giving woollen clothes to two sets of twins. In the first case my helper Laxmi told me that a young sweeper girl had given birth to twins.

Sweepers are from the lowest caste; their women often do housework and sweeping in the homes of wealthier higher caste families. In this case the young woman, the eldest of five sisters, had been married off at 18. As is the custom here,

she came to her parents' home for her delivery. Her family are very superstitious and had spent money they could ill afford on superstitious practices to ward off evil.

I told Laxmi that I had some small caps and after thinking it over she said, "I will give them to the new mother; she is not so superstitious." She also took a sweater and cap for another newborn boy. I have since heard that the families were so happy to receive these gifts. I also was told that the young mother has given her boy twin to her mother, who had given birth to only girls, and has kept the girl twin for herself.

The second case happened several hours later. I walked over to our school and was told of another set of twins being born to the daughter of one of our school's sweepers. In both cases a boy and a girl were born. In this case the Grandmother eagerly accepted the two sweaters and four caps I gave her.

As I looked into my bag I realized I had only a few caps and booties left. A day later a neighbour told me that her two daughters-in-law were about to have babies. That night a boy was born to one. The next day the grandparents left on an eight-hour bus ride to meet their new grandson. I gave my neighbour the caps and booties. A second grandson was born a few weeks later.

Now the weather has warmed up and we'll have blistering hot weather for the next five to seven months.

Again we thank you for your love in action and your prayers and concern for us all.

With best wishes to all.

Sincerely,

Catherine

彰化基督教醫院
CHANGHUA CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL
台灣 彰化市 陽校街135號
135 Nan Siau Street, Changhua, Taiwan, 500, R.O.C.
TEL:886-4-723-8595 FAX:886-4-723-2942

Joy Randall
Taiwan

October 1998 - Our hospital continues to expand with many new plans for the future. We had a serious problem in Taiwan with an enterovirus in May for a few months and over 50 children died, many of them being from our country and thus at our hospital. It affected the brain and especially the respiratory centre, and thus they died very quickly.

Specialists came from Atlanta and, more recently, we sent our lab tech to Atlanta with more samples to determine better results. Thus many people were afraid to come to our hospital in case they became infected. It has taken us awhile to return to our normal numbers in Out Patients.

This past month has been the ghost festival and during this period people do not want to have an operation, deliver a baby, or get married etc. Pray for all the patients we serve for their healing and care.

We have hired over 300 new nurses since July and had three orientations and now the wards/units have their own specific orientations. We renovated the Medical ICU and a Cardiac CU to open in November, a second Surgical ICU in November-December. Pray for all our new staff and the senior staff that are instructing them.

Our Medical College has been approved as part of a University, and preparation and searching for professors and the president has begun. The University is established and financed by a businessman in our area but the Medical College is under our direction. Many challenges for the future! Pray that all this will go smoothly and according to plans.

Our Hospital Museum is to be opened

the end of November on our 102nd Anniversary. Historical things will be put there along with pictures. In the future visitors will be welcome and we hope this will be an educational experience for children in our area. Pray for its education and outreach.

The 70th Anniversary of the Skin Graph with Love Foundation is this year and there have been many activities associated with this. School children are having a Taiwanese Language Contest, our Children's Choir has been busy visiting churches for special music concerts, education programs for medical staff, nurses etc, special clinics in kindergartens, and our department will visit a Nursing Home for an Eye Clinic. Pray as we share this special story of love with others that we may continue to demonstrate it through our lives and service for others.

I started an English Bible Study in September and we are studying Mark. Most of the group is non-Christian or new Christians. Rev. Chen is also helping. We also have another fellowship and Bible Study on Thursday nights. Our emphasis is how to help new Christians grow in their faith, how to be more supportive of our staff and their families, and be more committed Christians. Pray for more effective evangelism and outreach with staff and patients in our hospital.

Our church building is almost completed on the outside and we expect it to be dedicated early in the new year. Our choir is doing a special CD for it and our 40th Anniversary. Pray for its witness in our community.

My health is much better and it is easier to do things as there are not as many aches and pains.

Once again, my sincere thanks for all your prayers.

Yours,

Joy

Richard & Ling Schwarz
Nepal

June 1998 – God has been very good to us in our family activities. In our last letter we had mentioned health concerns (chronic cough) living in Kathmandu. Jon has been unable to run or ride his bike without severe coughing fits since December. These did not improve and so, with great difficulty, we decided to shift to Pokhara, a smaller and cleaner city about 200 km west of Kathmandu.

There I will be working in a government hospital, again doing general surgery. One real regret I had was leaving the teaching of young doctors, which was such an important and rewarding part of my job. Lo and behold, when the academic department heard I was shifting they said that they would just send their residents to Pokhara! I hope that all the details of this move work out as it would be great for job satisfaction. Pray that we find a new church, new friends and for what God has for us in ministry.

Our last few months were fruitful months. I had a lot of preaching engagements both at our church and elsewhere. Jon and I took another trip down to the Terai to do some teaching and evangelism. The persecution in the area has been more intense, but we went ahead in faith and God really blessed this time.

It was a good time of building up the church and outreach in the surrounding villages, and several put their faith in Christ. One old man said, "For 90 years I have not been able to find peace in our gods, but today what you have said has given me peace. I believe." In spite of the two 13-hour overnight bus trips in four days with work sandwiched on each end, I came back really rejuvenated, seeing God's hand at work and the openness people have to His

OVERSEAS STAFF BIRTHDAYS

OVERSEAS STAFF BIRTHDAYS

February
5 – Philip Barsoum, Cyprus
12 – Christopher Barsoum, Cyprus

March
12 – Ling Schwarz, Nepal
19 – Naomi Inglis, Malawi
27 – Margaret Vanderzweerde, India

word.

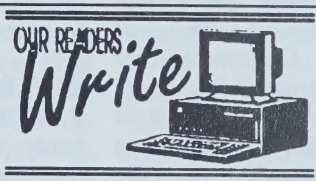
Ling has also been busy, both in teaching Sunday School and firmly placing the women's co-op in the care of the women's hands. They are very worried that they can't survive without her, but they were doing alright with very minimal support from Ling when we left.

They will be losing the only person in the group with math skills, which will be a real problem. Pray for that. One great thing has been to watch these poor and previously little esteemed women become a big part of church ministry. They use their profits for special projects in the church, which has made them power brokers of sorts. Some are learning to write.

We have also done some ministry in a small fellowship our church has started in the other end of Kathmandu. They meet at the house of a tailor who has two wives. These folk are very new believers but have a keen desire to learn more. "Services" are certainly interesting, sometimes interrupted by neighbours, or having to sew something urgently for a customer, or a fellow who passed out from a marijuana O.D. as he sat beside me, but we have a great time and I think fruitful. They too need prayer as their neighbours persecute them.

Thank you each one for your support in prayers, letters and finance.

In His grace,
Richard, Ling, Jon & Daniel



Dear Editor:
Just had to 'read' this wonderful publication one more time before mailing the tape back! The items re missionaries and their families are most delightful and give us a glimpse of their routines, joys and concerns. This enables me to pray more easily and personally for them. Unable to read print, this format indeed is most helpful and keeps me 'in the know' of what is happening in the mission field.

Missionaries are very dear to my heart. I am still of the opinion that the magazine is well named and I do enjoy every poem and news of other WMS groups. I have loaned my cassette to a friend of the RC faith and we both agree how distinct and pleasant are the narrators. So keep on doing what you have been doing as I think it is a first class magazine.

Looking forward to the next one with great anticipation. My prayers are not only with the missionaries but with all who have a hand in producing such an excellent publication!

Sincerely in Christ,
Sophie Jackson
President WMS Laurel Lea St. Mathews,
Sarnia, ON

NEWS

CATHOLIC PRIEST ARRESTED

Paul Jeffrey - Guatemala City, 27 October (ENI) Exactly six months after the brutal murder of Roman Catholic Bishop Juan Gerardi, more than a thousand people marched through Guatemala City late yesterday in memory of the respected champion of human rights. The marchers also demanded that the Guatemalan authorities take action to find the murderer.

The procession began at the Roman Catholic Cathedral and ended with a Mass at the Church of San Sebastian, where Bishop Gerardi was killed on 26 April, just two days after releasing a report blaming the country's military for most of the violence during Guatemala's 36-year civil war.

In a communique released for the six month anniversary of Juan Gerardi's death, the Guatemalan Bishops' Conference (Roman Catholic) described as "totally inadequate" the investigation of the murder. The bishops said the murder was "a premeditated blow to the Guatemalan Catholic Church" designed to "limit our pastoral action and remind us that the most fearful forces in the country are still intact and possess enormous power".

Although prosecutors have charged a Catholic priest, Mario Orantes, with the killing, most of those who marched yesterday believe that Orantes, who is in prison awaiting trial, is a scapegoat.

REFERENDUM ON EAST TIMOR

Ferdy Baglo-Toronto, 21 October (ENI) A high ranking delegation of Canadian church officials just back from Indonesia will urge the Canadian government to demand urgent international action, including a UN supervised referendum on self rule, to resolve the continuing crisis in East Timor.

One of the delegates, Monsignor Peter Shonenbach, general secretary of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, told ENI: "We believe it is extremely urgent that the international community impress upon Indonesia that this [conflict] has to be solved."

The eastern side of Timor, the biggest of the Lesser Sunda Islands in the Malay Archipelago, was colonised by the Portuguese in 1520, while the Dutch took control of the western side in 1620. The Japanese military occupied the island during the Second World War.

In 1950, West Timor became part of the Republic of Indonesia. When the Portuguese abandoned East Timor in 1975, the colony declared its independence, but Indonesia immediately invaded, annexing the area in 1976. Timor has more than four million inhabitants.

Since 1976 East Timor has been troubled by violence between rebels and the Indonesian military. There have been many reports of violent repression by the Indonesian forces over the past two decades.

Shonenbach told ENI: "90 per cent of Indonesia is Muslim, while 90 per cent of Timor is Christian."

Leading Canadian church officials were in the delegation which will present a report containing recommendations to the Canadian government when they meet the nation's foreign minister, Lloyd Axworthy, and secretary of state for the Asia Pacific, Raymond Chan, early next month.

COOPERATE OR BE MARGINALIZED

Stephen Brown - Wittenberg, Germany, 28 October (ENI) Christianity may be marginalised unless the world's main Christian

churches strengthen their cooperation and build an "inclusive communion", according to Bishop Christian Krause, president of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), the world's major grouping of Lutheran churches.

"Globalisation evens out the differences between denominational churches," Bishop Krause, from Brunswick in Germany, told participants last night at the opening of an international LWF conference in Wittenberg, Germany. "At the global level, there are now only Christians, no longer Catholics or Protestants."

SOUTH AFRICA'S MORAL CRISIS

East London, South Africa, 27 October (ENI) The level of violent crimes in South Africa is five times higher than the average rate on the international crime index, according to a survey released last year by a banking group, Nedcor.

But police statistics for the first quarter of 1998 show that the level of most serious crimes has stabilised or declined in the past four years, even though the number of crimes is still unacceptably high. The Mandela government is taking strong steps to uncover crime and corruption.

Of particular concern are rape and corruption. South Africa has the highest incidence of reported rapes in the world, with one occurring every 25 seconds, according to Kumi Naidoo, executive director of the South African NonGovernmental Organisations Coalition.

Even South Africa's police are a subject of deep concern. Police officers are three times more likely to commit crime than ordinary members of the public, official figures show. Statistics provided by the Minister of Safety and Security, Sydney Mufamadi, demonstrate the extent of police involvement in criminal activities.

One of the negative aspects of the ending of South Africa's international status as a pariah during the apartheid era has been the arrival of organised crime following the opening up of the country's borders. In a recent report the World Economic Forum described South Africa's organised crime as second only to Colombia's, troubled by drug cartels, and Russia's, with its powerful mafia.

WARMER ORTHODOX RELATIONS WITH VATICAN

Jonathan Luxmoore-Warsaw, 23 October (ENI) The Ecumenical Patriarch, Bartholomeos I, has praised Pope John Paul II's contribution to Christian unity and urged a "new path of dialogue" between Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches.

The patriarch was speaking last week at the end of a visit to Poland which happened to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the Pope's election in 1978. His comments indicate there has been a marked improvement in relations between the Ecumenical Patriarchate and theVatican, since a chill in Orthodox Catholic links last year.

The Pope's 20th anniversary in the Vatican was, the patriarch said, "a milestone, not just for the Roman Catholic Church, but for the whole of Christianity". He also said he was "overjoyed" that an international commission of Orthodox and Roman Catholic theologians had agreed to reopen formal talks at Baltimore, in the US, in June 1999.

CALLS FOR PINOCHET'S TRIAL

Stephen Brown-Geneva, 23 October (ENI) A senior official of the World Council of Churches (WCC) today called for the former Chilean military dictator, General Augusto Pinochet, to be put on trial

for "crimes against humanity".

General Pinochet was arrested by British police on 17 October while a patient at a London hospital, following an official request by Spanish judges investigating the deaths of Spanish citizens during General Pinochet's dictatorship, in which thousands of people were killed, tortured or "disappeared".

The former British prime minister, Baroness Thatcher, has also created controversy by urging the British authorities to allow Pinochet to return home to Chile because of his assistance to Britain during her government's 1982 conflict with Argentina over the Falkland Islands/Malvinas.

Genevieve Jacques, an executive secretary of the WCC's Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, told ENI that the "historic" action of the Spanish judges and the British authorities meant "that for the first time a breach has opened in the wall of impunity against one of the most symbolic representatives of the dictatorships in Latin America responsible for countless deaths and disappearances".

"For those in the churches in Chile who have been struggling against impunity and calling for justice for the victims and truth to be revealed, it is a historic action," Jacques said.

NEW VERSION OF BIBLE FOR COMIC BOOK FANS

Cedric Pulford-London, 26 October (ENI) The Bible is about to be given a major boost thanks to an unlikely medium, the comic strip.

The 256-page Lion Graphic Bible, launched in Great Britain this month, has already been hailed by publishers and church officials as a means of finding new audiences for the world's bestselling but often highly unread book.

Britain's Channel Five television station has already said the book is "set to be a hit with both comic fans and churchgoers". Pete Ward, the Archbishop of Canterbury's adviser for youth ministry, was similarly enthusiastic. "The Bible crammed into speech bubbles? It's a crazy idea and it really works. This is a quality job. Kids who might never read a book are going to enjoy it and get lots out of it."

Lion, the publisher, hopes that the graphic Bible will be popular with children as young as 10 years old. The highly coloured, super precise style of drawing, with handlettered text in boxes and bubble captions, is also likely to appeal to teenagers and those in their 20s, who are used to grownup comics.

The publishers said the Bible was expected to be available in several English speaking countries before the end of the year.

SHANTI SOLOMON DIES

Delhi, 28 October (ENI) Shanthi Solomon, founder of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, has died in Delhi at the age of 78.

Dr Shanthi Solomon, who died on 15 October, was an Indian church leader who played key roles in many Christian organisations. She was a founding member of several ecumenical women's organisations in Asia.

It was under her leadership that the All India Council of Christian Women and the Association of Theologically Trained Women in India were established. She also played an important role in setting up the Asian Church Women's Conference and was its first secretary.

As vice-president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) from 1970 to 1977, Dr Solomon was one of WARC's first officers from the South.

But it was the refusal of a visa by the Korean

authorities preventing her from joining a delegation of church women that led to the initiative for which Dr Solomon is best known internationally. Reflecting on the national and economic boundaries that keep women apart, envisioning a movement of women praying for, and tangibly contributing to, peace, she set up in 1956 the Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC), an international movement of prayer and reconciliation.

"When women were asked to pray for peace and reconciliation, we would also ask them to put money in a coin box," Dr Solomon wrote in her autobiography, *A Legend and a Legacy*, published in 1997. "This would be a pledge to make their prayers concrete. Each woman should only offer the least coin of her currency and there should be no competitions about 'who collected more'." But Dr Solomon often insisted that it was not the coin that mattered, but the prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation that went with it.

FLC distributes approximately US$325,000 annually to women's projects all over the world and to ecumenical women's groups, such as the Women's Programme of the World Council of Churches and the programmes of regional ecumenical organisations.

UNITED CHURCH APOLOGIZES

Ferdy Baglo-Toronto, 30 October (ENI) The Moderator of the United Church of Canada (UCC) has issued an apology to Canada's First Nations peoples for the church's complicity in the operation of Indian Residential Schools in Canada.

The apology is addressed to those who suffered physical, sexual and mental abuse in the schools which were managed by the UCC, the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches for almost a century on behalf of the Canadian government. The UCCfaces more than 90 suits in the courts over alleged abuse. Altogether the three churches and the federal government face more than 1400 civil lawsuits, many of them involving a Roman Catholic order, the Oblate Brothers.

After a four-day meeting, in October, of the UCC's general council executive, the Moderator, clergyman Bill Phipps, announced the UCC's decision to issue an apology as the necessary next step for the church to take in its "journey of healing and reconciliation".

More restricted apologies have been issued by the church in recent years. However, this is the first time the church has made a general statement of its regret.

He also told ENI: "There will be people in the church who will find it difficult to both understand and accept the fact that we have taken this step. For me that is one sign that we have a lot of work to do within our own denomination in raising both the awareness and the sensitivities around our relationship with First Nations peoples.

On the day that Phipps issued the apology, a Cdn$1.7 billion class action lawsuit was launched in Ontario against the Canadian government and the Anglican Church of Canada. About 360 indigenous people, former students of the Mohawk Institute Residential School in Brantford, are seeking damages in regard to alleged abuses.

Retreat

This Monday
the two of us
snowed in by cold
sniffles and white comforter.
My child pads downstairs
to bring me soft soft cereal
in a bowl with
jam-laced edges.
I taste love.

Joan Bond

IN THE SOCIETY

PRESBYTERIAL

The annual Fall Rally of **Westminster** Presbyterial took place September 27 at Langley Church, Langley, B.C. Rev. Bruce Cairns conducted the opening devotional. His theme was based on ploughing a straight furrow, which is best done by looking ahead, not behind.

A pleasant diversion was created by extending congratulations to Ernestine Allan who is celebrating fifty years of marriage to husband John. She was presented with a bottle of Rogers Golden Syrup to help make the coming years even sweeter.

Report of the Camp Committee took the form of a conversation between three of the campers, Arlene Duff, Sharon Scott and Zena McKay, discussing their experience at the June retreat. Betty Siverns is the new director.

Joyce Ungaro introduced the Valley Reports, highlighted by the enthusiastic report of Kay Ross of contact with the DaySpring Church in London, Ontario.

Betty McLagan reported on information from Central Church, which indicated that mission work among women in British Columbia had commenced in 1875. Following union in 1926 the women formed Synodical, so it appears that WMS in British Columbia has a long and honoured history. Grace Murdoch presented book reviews.

Members were saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Frances Rivers of Nelson, B.C. Frances was an honoured member and friend of WMS.

Following lunch a lively singalong was led by Norma Cox of Langley Church. The highlight of the gathering was the presence of Beth McIntosh, on leave from the Korean Church in Japan. Wearing a canary yellow chima chigoro, the national dress of Korea, Beth gave an interesting account of work among Koreans in Japan. Her talk was illustrated by slides.

Brandon Presbyterial Fall Rally was held at Knox-Zion Church, Carberry, Manitoba, September 24, 1998. Theme of the Rally was *Mission Partnerships.* Devotion was conducted by Portage WMS. President Gloria Kennedy-Grainger welcomed everyone and constituted the meeting.

A report on the Spring Rally of Brandon-Winnipeg Presbyterials was given by Jean Thomas, Portage. Rev. Ray Hodgson, Regional Staff Person, gave a report on the Nacho bus that was delivered to Guatemala. Ray also highlighted the 1998-1999 Mission Studies. A singalong followed lunch, conducted by Jean Thomas, Portage and Mary McDonald.

Guest speakers Anna and Edward Waldner from the Hutterite Colony, north of MacGregor, Manitoba, gave a very interesting presentation. They focused on Christianity in Africa, accompanied by slides and videos.

Closing Devotion was conducted by Ray Hodgson.

Sarnia Presbyterial Fall Rally was held at St. Andrew's Church, Wyoming, Ontario on October 21, 1998. Literature and Audio-Visual Secretary, Margaret Smith had an interesting selection of books. After a potluck dinner, we were all welcomed by Rev. Jeremy Ashton, minister of the host church. Jane Lester sang a solo.

Guest speaker, Gail Dumont B.S.W. from the Women's Interval Home was introduced by Ann Ashton. She spoke of the various kinds of violence that women experience and explained why they should ask for help. Hesitating or delaying assistance in cases of violence may be very damaging.

Erin Crisfield, AEC, outlined the study books for 1999. Closing devotions were led by members of Petrolia. Hebrews 12:14 was the theme. Following the offering President, Margaret McNeil closed the evening meeting with prayer.

On a cool, crisp morning, October 3, 53 women attending **Oak Ridges** Presbyterial Fall Rally received a warm welcome from the women of Thornhill.

After everyone warmed up with muffins, hot tea and coffee, Esther Powell, accompanied by Jean Thomas on the piano, led everyone in a hymn sing using the new Book of Praise.

President Allison Eldridge chaired the meeting. Bob Smith, minister of Thornhill led a devotional with "Listening for the voice of God" as his theme.

Following business, Denise Fenez, Lay Missionary/Director of Anishinabe Fellowship Centre in Winnipeg was guest speaker.

She started with a very thought-provoking parable about a family taking over a home. She then showed us a video about problems experienced by the Aboriginal people who had been displaced and whose children had been put into residential schools. She concluded by describing some of the work at the Centre.

Doris Willoughby thanked Denise. Eldora and Mary-Edith Nevils led the closing worship.

The **Peterborough** Presbyterial Fall Rally was held September 16, 1998 at St. Andrew's, Burnbrae, Ontario. Registration was followed by a singalong with Jackie Kelly and Helen King.

President Ada Chapman of Lakehurst presided. Greetings were extended from Burnbrae by Joan Billen. Joan and Louise Campbell sang a lovely duet, accompanied by Marlene Alex.

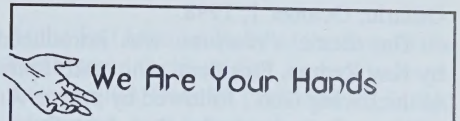
Rev. Rosemary Doran of Windsor, guest speaker, presented a workshop on "Reflections". We also enjoyed "Fitness" in the morning with Nancy Millar of Norwood.

During the noon adjournment there was time for visiting each other and the book table prepared by Eleanor Reading of Norwood.

Another singalong followed lunch. We continued with the third part of our workshop on Reflections.

Grace Dyer of Lakefield thanked the guest speaker, and Holly Hall of Centreville thanked the women of Burnbrae. The meeting closed with Margaret Mackenzie of Campbellford leading in prayer.

The annual **Bruce-Grey** Fall Rally was held at Westminster Church, Paisley,



We Are Your Hands

Oh, Lord we are your hands
To do your will.
Lord, we claim your riches
Our hearts to fill.
The WMS reaches out to you
To serve the lonely and the lost.
In helping others
Do we count the cost?
In friendship and fellowship we meet
To do your will; learned at your feet.
What do those outside us see,
Do they find Christ in you and me?

Frances Rivers

Written May 5, 1998 at Crieff Hills Conference Centre, as part of Council Bible Study with Rosemary Doran's *Reflections: Remembering the Past, Present, and Future. Frances died suddenly in the summer.*

Ontario, October 1, 1998.

The theme, *Priorities,* was introduced by Kay Remus, President, who read 'Spirit of the Living God', followed by prayer. An enthusiastic welcome by Rev. John Baker, Paisley to the 69 women representing 16 WMS groups, affirmed the constant and continuing role of the WMS as a "Priority" in the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

A short skit, developed and presented by three members, left no doubt as to the appropriateness of the theme, and provided an opportunity to laugh at ourselves.

Guest Erin Crisfield, AEC, introduced the study "Mission Partnerships". Through participation in small group discussion, Erin enkindled much interest in the possibilities of this new study.

Special guest speaker, President of Council Executive, Esther Powell, led us through "Reflections" to priorities. The talents of each, touched by the glory of God, may be just what is needed to attain the stated goals.

A book display, video of an alternate study, and fine organ music added to the richness of the day.

Closing worship was led by the Priceville WMS group.

Fifty women from across **Saskatchewan** met at Christopher Lake, September 11-13. Friday evening supper was served by women from Prince Albert Presbyterial.

Theme for the camp was *Spice up your Life* - Mark 9:50: "Have the salt of friendship among yourselves and live at peace with one another".

Worship services were conducted by **South Saskatchewan, Prince Albert and Saskatoon** Presbyterials. Beth McIntosh spoke about work with the Koreans in Japan, along with her husband, Jack. Beth's addresses were entitled "Korean Spice".

A Bible Study, Nourishment for the Soul, was led by Candace Brown from Yorkton. Preparation of ethnic foods was demonstrated by Bev Maxwell (Ukrainian), Helen Isbister (Native) and Irene Soderlund (Norwegian).

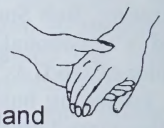
"A Pinch of Humour" - an evening of fun was followed by "Streams of Praise", singing led by Rev. Catherine Dorcas.

A bonfire and sharing circle of faith, took place on the beach. Candles, placed in tin cans, were set afloat on the lake.

Sunday morning worship, followed by lunch, completed a "Spiced Up" weekend.

Mission Partners - Parish Nursing was the theme for the Fall Rally of **Maitland** Presbyterial held in Brussels, Ontario on

Touch



In the touch of the hand
In kindness
In the understanding
of a heart meeting another
I see God.

When I was in hospital
Your cool hand touched
my fevered brow
When I needed someone
to talk to
Your hand held mine close.

When I was alone and hurt
You came to me.
God works through you
God works through me
In kindness
In the touch of the hand
In understanding one
to another.

Maureen Kowal

September 21. Nearly 90 WMS members began the meeting with a salad supper.

Following a singalong, Vice-President, Marilyn MacIntyre opened with a reading and prayer. Rev. Catherine Campbell welcomed everyone to Brussels.

Worship was led by Molesworth Evening Auxiliary with Betty Mitchell reading the scripture. Ethel Baker gave the meditation on Mission Partners suggesting that if each of us did one thing for someone each day what a difference that could make. Mary Joan Fisher closed with prayer.

Reports were followed by guest speaker, Diane Petrie, Director of Nursing with the Huron County Health Unit. She spoke about how churches are becoming more involved in a health ministry outreach to others. Janna Speers-Dodds also told some of the ways she is helping as a Parish nurse in the Brussels area.

Special music was supplied by Janna and Jim Lee. AEC Erin Crisfield gave a brief introduction to the studies available.

Following the courtesy remarks by Marion Mundell, Agnes Bregman led in the closing prayer.

East Toronto Presbyterial held their annual Study Workshop on Saturday September 18, 1998 at Glenview Church, Toronto, Ontario. Margaret Robertson, WMS Program Secretary, led the workshop with enthusiasm and fun.

The study "Mission Partnerships and The Presbyterian Church in Canada" was introduced through small group discussions and three excellent videos.

The study "Uprooted! Refugees and Forced Migrants" was introduced by a skit.

The women brought a bag lunch and Glenview provided delicious desserts, tea and coffee. This was a pleasant way to end the morning as it gave everyone an opportunity to renew friendships.

At the Fall Mission Rally of the **Brockville** Presbyterial held at St. Andrew's-Knox, Spencerville, Ontario, Catherine Inglis told interesting but disturbing stories of four women she had met in India while working for the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Worship by Mary Moorehead, was delivered by Carol Darling. Henny Donkersteeg presided over the evening's program with Fran Adams at the piano. Musical selections were sung by a Spencerville-Ventnor Trio. Catherine Blatch, literature secretary, displayed a variety of books and cards for sale.

The Fall Rally of **Montreal** Presbyterial was held October 3, 1998 at Westminster Church, Pierrefonds, Quebec. Presiding was President Grace Thornley-Brown.

Carol Morrison welcomed members on behalf of the session and church members. The host minister Rev. Mitch McVeigh led worship with the theme "Their Laughter". A short history of the church was given by Lorna Smith.

After reports, Grace Thornley-Brown led in an exercise break. Mary Lou Johnston introduced guest speaker Kelly Lee Shapiro. Kelly's theme was *Journey to Wholeness*. She spoke of building a bridge between aboriginals and non-aboriginals.

After lunch a singalong was led by Joycelyn MacKay and Edith Bobbit. The video "Christian Faith in a Violent World" was shown with Ann Blane as animator. Courtesies were given by Peggy Wegrich.

West Toronto Presbyterial held its Fall Rally on October 24 at St. Giles, Kingsway Church. President Bev McWhinnie welcomed everyone. Devotions were given by Dorothy Hopper and Carolyn Jones. After a short business meeting, Sandra Hanlyn reported on the Youth Coffee House held in September.

Guest speaker, Margaret Robertson, Program Secretary WMS National Office, was introduced by Bev McWhinnie. Her theme was *Finding Our Voice - Reweaving Dreams.* Elizabeth Heath thanked Margaret, and Bev McWhinnie closed the meeting with prayer.

Lindsay Presbyterial fall meeting was held at St. Andrew's, Lindsay, Ontario on September 30, with members from nine neighbouring congregations. After a warm welcome with coffee, tea and muffins, June Nesbitt led in a singalong with Blanche Simpson at the organ.

President Grace Jess opened the meeting with a poem, "A Thankful Heart" and then constituted the meeting with prayer. Joan Snider from the host church welcomed all.

The worship service was conducted by Melda Francis, Joan Anderson, and Joy Noble of St. John's, Cresswell, using scripture from John 2:1-11.

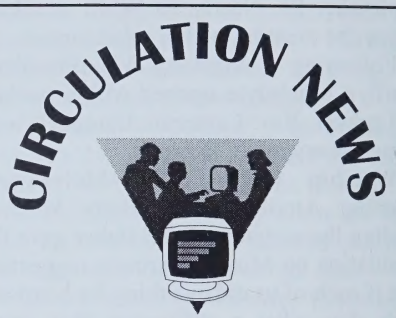
Business followed with reports. Vacation Bible Schools were held in Bolsover and Fenelon Falls. Bolsover had 53 children attend and their collection was sent to aid children in South America. Teenagers from Cresswell had a successful meeting with a Toronto Group recently, and the teens who attended the Youth Triennium at Purdue University, Indiana, reported an inspiring experience.

After lunch, President Grace Jess welcomed Education Consultant, Lynda Reid. She informed us of the study resources for 1999-2000. Lynda asked the women to act out some scenarios, demonstrating how we could help through using the materials.

Lynda closed the meeting with prayer.

LOCAL

Morrisburg WMS held their annual fall thankoffering service on Sunday October 25, 1998. President Margaret Reynolds was assisted throughout the (cont...)



Congratulations to the groups who sent in more than six new subscribers for Glad Tidings-especially to St. Columba Church in Belleville who have 13 new subscribers! It takes a lot of effort to find new subscriptions. As of November 19 there are 67 lists outstanding.

In looking over the subscriptions lists I noted a few things: if you are receiving two copies of the magazine (i.e. listed twice on the subscription list) and did not request this, please let us know immediately quoting the numbers off both copies of the magazine.

One of the reasons listed for cancelling a subscription is "eyesight problems". Why not order the cassette tape or the large print issue of Glad Tidings? Or, perhaps the group might order the tape or large print issue to share among members who have difficulty seeing. These are available from the Glad Tidings office and are kept on separate lists. The Large Print issue is recommended only for those who are visually impaired at a cost of $10. There is no charge for the cassette tape, however a contribution of $10 can be made, if desired, to offset the production costs.

Sometimes subscribers cancel because they cannot afford to renew. Has the group considered purchasing extra copies to share? This might encourage others to read the magazine.

Katherine Allen
Circulation Manager

service by other members of the WMS.

Guest speaker, Malcolm "Mackie" Robertson of Bainsville, Ontario, spoke about his involvement with the Char-Lan Foodgrains Bank. This represents a coalition of seventeen churches and farmers donating time, labour, equipment and seed to help feed the world's hungry in places like North Korea, Ethiopia or Zaire. He has just spent time in Africa evaluating the program on behalf of agencies such as Presbyterian World Service.

A potluck lunch was served during which Mr. Robertson showed slides of the work of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. We were reminded how the benefits of our gifts to PWS&D will grow, spread and touch the lives of needy communities.

Rev. Raymond Glen, minister of **Westmount Church, Edmonton, Alberta** is pictured dedicating a beautiful new fall in memory of the late Mrs. Dorothy Stevenson, who was a long time active church member and president of the Catherine McQueen group (1989-1998).

This gift was presented to the church on behalf of the Catherine McQueen group by their president Mrs. Mary Barr, who designed and hand-crafted the fall. Pictured below (l to r): Edna Thibaudeau, Mary Gray, Doris Tolmie, Leah Schwindt, Ethel Smith, Kay Glen, Isabel Wright, Mary Barr, and Raymond Glen.

Address Changes:

Colleen Smith, YIM Coordinator
Youth in Mission
174 First Ave
Ottawa ON K1S 2G4
Phone: (613) 233-6827 FAX: (613) 235-0910

Ida White
209 Keays Street
Goderich ON N7A 3N4

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. Elizabeth McKee,
Knox, Agincourt, ON

Mrs. Harriet Pearsall,
Essa Road, Barrie, ON

Mrs. Margaret Kane,
St. Andrew's, Belleville, ON

Miss Lorena McLaren,
St. Andrew's, Ross and Renfrew, ON

Miss Mary McLean,
Mrs. Tyressa McPherson (101 years Old),
First, Collingwood, ON

Mrs. Adeline Rayner
Knox, Dundas, ON

Mrs. Arley Roy,
Eden Mills and Knox, Guelph, ON

Mrs. Renne Gartshore,
St. Andrew's, Fort Frances, ON

Mrs. Jean Irving,
St. Enoch's, Hamilton, ON

Merle Brown,
Rowena Davenport,
St. Andrew's, Kitchener, ON

Miss Sheila Brown,
St. Paul's, Ottawa, ON

Miss Margaret Armstrong,
Westminster, Ottawa, ON
(formerly of Glenview, Toronto, ON)

Mrs. Jean Peirson,
St. John's, Pittsburgh, ON

Mrs. Audrey Eby,
St. Paul's, Port Hope, ON

Mrs. Edna Bell,
Duff's, Puslinch, ON

Mrs. Isabel McGregor,
Lochwinnoch, Renfrew, ON

Mrs. Gaye Donovan,
(wife of Rev. Walter Donovan)
Calvin-Goforth, Saskatoon, SK

Mrs. Magaret Fraser,
Mrs. Priscilla Milner,
Knox, Vankleek Hill, ON

Mrs. Elizabeth Cousins,
Knox, Woodstock, ON

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

Esther Powell
5802 - 19th Avenue
Markham, ON L3P 3J3

PAST PRESIDENT

Rosemary Doran
266 St. Louis Avenue
Windsor, ON N8S 2K3

VICE PRESIDENT

Mary Moorhead
R. R. 3
Spencerville, ON K0E 1X0

SECRETARY

Jean Rankine
1030 Lillian Street
Willowdale, ON M2M 3G3

TREASURER

Irene Nesbitt
3 Jansen Road
Nepean, ON K2H 5W6

CO-TREASURER

Giollo Kelly
1148 Broadview Avenue
Toronto, ON M4K 2S5

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE SECRETARY

Mary-Lou Johnston
5850 Hutchison Street
Outrement, QC H2V 4C1

MEMBERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

Shirley Barnhart
139 Denistoun Street
Welland, ON L3C 1V3

Jean Dancey
#208 - 124 Park Road North
Oshawa, ON L1J 4L4

Jean Edmunds
162 St. George Street
Mitchell, ON N0K 1N0

Fleur Eenkhoorn
311 Michigan Avenue
Point Edward, ON N7V 1G1

Joanne Instance
11 - 131 Tyndall Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2X 0Z3

Bok Hee Lee
19 Strathmanor Drive
Bowmanville, ON L1C 4L2

Pauline Lindsay
R. R. #6
St. Thomas, ON N5P 3T1

Noreen Marshall
23 Didrickson Drive
Willowdale, ON M2P 1J7

Margaret McCullough
207 Sunnyside Drive
London, ON N5X 3R1

Ian Morrison
General Secretary
Life and Mission Agency
50 Wynford Drive
North York, ON M3C 1J7

Margaret Reynolds
Box 511
Morrisburg, ON K0C 1X0

Florence Ross
1012 - 1 Massey Square
Toronto, ON M4C 5L4

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS (SYNODICAL PRESIDENTS)

Elizabeth McLagan
#214, 22015 - 48th Avenue
Langley, BC V3A 8L3

Helen McLeish
324 Dorchester Street,
Box 323
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0

Margaret Moar
3808 - 15th Avenue
Edmonton, AB T6L 2M4

Brenda Patterson
635 Grey Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 2E4

Bernice Shih
#106, 537 - 4th Ave. N.,
Saskatoon, SK S7K 2M6

Lottie Sutherland
P. O. Box 413
Westport, ON K0G 1X0

Lorna Teare
17 Clansman Blvd.
North York, ON M2H 1X5

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Jean Dancey
Mary Jack
Audrey Nettleton
May Nutt
Barbara Woodruff

STAFF
Executive Secretary
Charlotte Brown

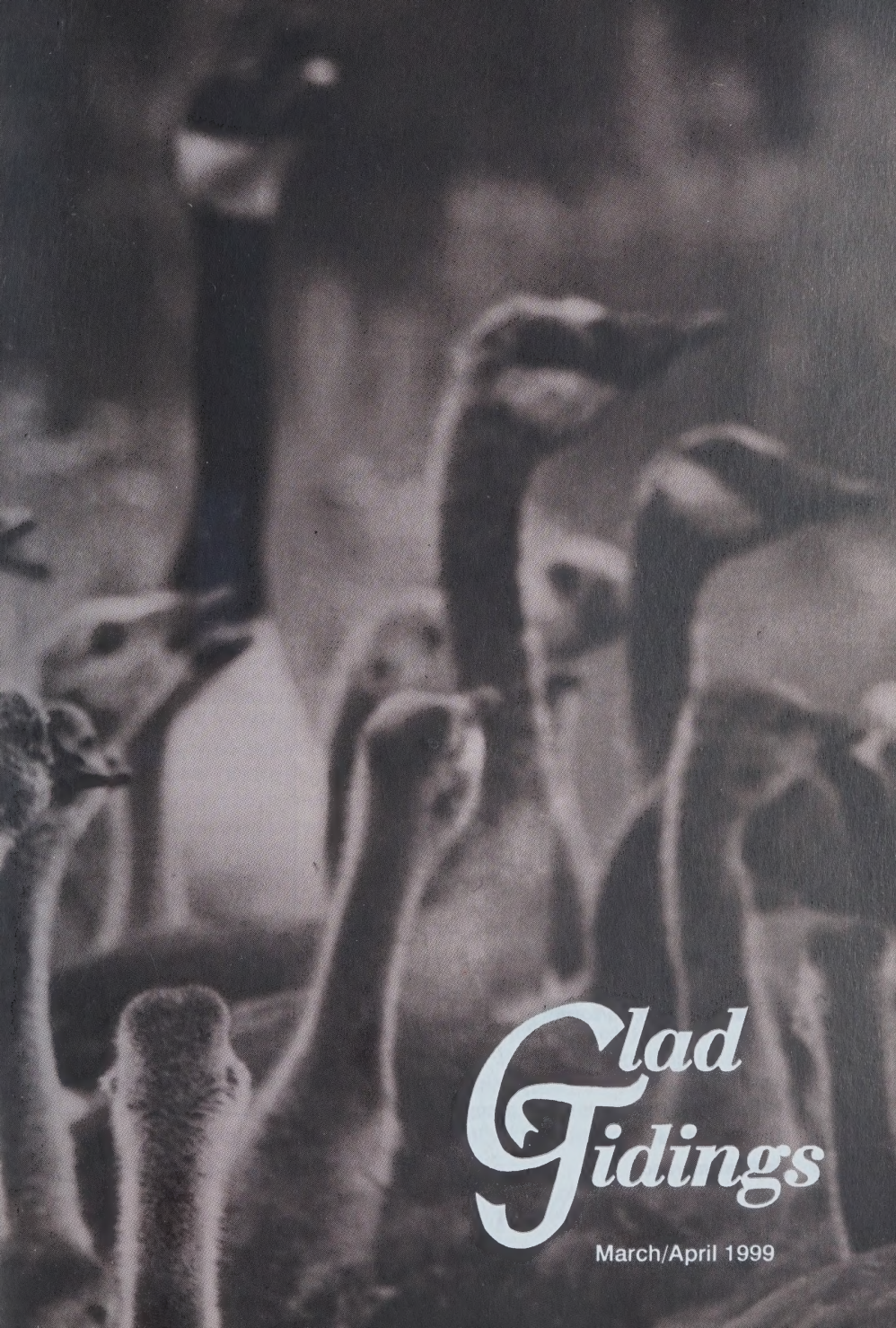
Program Secretary
Margaret Robertson

Editor
L. June Stevenson

Manager, WMS Book Room
Trish Heidebrecht

Glad Tidings is printed on recycled paper

Please report any errors/changes in address.



Glad Tidings

March/April 1999

Contents

Features

4 **Easter Worship**

8 **Re-creation at Burrswood** . . . . . *by Joy Hunter*

11 **The Greatest Rescue** . . . . . *by Gail Northgrave*

12 **When Breaking an Addiction - a poem** . . . . . *by Roberta McClelland*

13 **Striving for Perfection** . . . . . *by Maria Stam*

13 **Signs of God's Love - a poem** . . . . . *by Maria Stam*

14 **Artistry - a poem** . . . . . *by Joan Bond*

15 **An Unusual Mission: Ecumenical Representative** . . . . . *by Gail Turner*

17 **A Tavern Turns Into A Hostel For Women and Children** . . . . . *by Margaret McGillivray*

18 **Easter - a poem** . . . . . *by Amanda Carter*

19 **Word Search Puzzle** . . . . . *by Rebecca Carter*

20 **When Meetings Sparkle** . . . . . *by Rev. Bill Palmer*

Journey to Africa

21 **Your Story is My Story** . . . *by Margaret Robertson*

24 **That Day in November** . . . . . *by Adele Halliday*

27 **March**
March and April - two poems . . . . . *by Gladys Nolan*

30 **In Memoriam** - *Ruth Alexandra Yeandle* . . . . . .

Regulars

3 **Written in Love**

28 **Books/Resources**

31 ***"I"*-Witness**

32 **Mission in Action** - *Allison, Melanson, King, Lessard-Clouston, Barsoum*

38 **News**

41 **Forward in Faith**

42 **In the Society**

45 **Circulation News**

47 **In Remembrance**

Glad Tidings

Mar./Apr. 1999
Volume 75 No.2

EDITOR:
L. JUNE STEVENSON
CIRCULATION MANAGER:
KATHERINE ALLEN

Published six times a year by the Women's Missionary Society, W.D. of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, 50 Wynford Drive, North York, Ont. M3C 1J7. Tel. 1 (416) 441-1111. Fax 1 (416) 441-2825. Publications mail registration number 0606. ISSN: 00170720.

Member of the Canadian Church Press and the Associated Church Press.

Subscription rate for 1998 $10.00 including G.S.T. per year. Single copies $1.70. W.M.S. members should send their subscriptions through their group Glad Tidings Secretary. Individual subscribers may order direct from Glad Tidings. Please make all money orders and cheques payable at par to Glad Tidings.

GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

Cover Photo: Jane Johnston

When the geese come back to 50 Wynford...

March 1999

Do you ever wish you could start all over again? Throw out all the clothes in your wardrobe and buy new outfits? Get rid of your old furniture and redecorate your entire house? Go back to a certain day in your life and seize that opportunity you passed up? Take back those thoughtless words you uttered? *Be born again?*

As I looked at the downy softness of the baby geese on the cover of this issue, I thought of how spring is a time of new life, and rebirth. It is a time when promises, long dormant beneath winter's frost, are fulfilled. It is a time when we can throw open the windows of our lives and air out the cobwebs. It is a time when we are reminded anew that life will triumph over death.

I have always loved Canada geese. (Yes, I know all about the mess they can make and how the grass is sometimes unfit to walk on.) But, there is something so breathtaking about the way they rise majestically from the ground and take flight. There is something so mysterious about the way they move into formation and soar gracefully through the sky. There is something so saucy about the way they stop the traffic and saunter casually across the road.

We have geese at 50 Wynford Drive. I call them the concrete geese because they seem as comfortable on our asphalt parking lot as they do on the lawn, or in nearby Sunnybrook Park. And, because they are city geese. The farthest south they go is to Lake Ontario, along Toronto's shoreline. During the year they seem to migrate a few yards at a time - across the street, then down the road a few blocks. In the bright golden days of autumn I have only to look out my office window and see them grazing on the lawn. I have been known to share my lunch with them and to admire their cautious acceptance of a few crumbs.

What especially fascinates me is the way they care for each other. There may be ten geese resting on the grass, but there will always be two geese standing, one at either side, ever watchful, ever on the alert, their long necks swiveling back and forth. I know that when they fly, one goose will change places in the formation when another goose tires. And I know, too, that they mate for life. When one's mate has died the other geese are there to care for the one left behind.

There are no geese at 50 Wynford Drive today. But soon, as the sun warms the cold ground, and green shoots appear on the lawn, they will return, to graze, to straggle across the road, to gather in the parking lot and mosey about.

Somehow their presence is a comfort to me. They are a sign that life is always new and renewing itself. The promise that spring follows winter is as true as the certainty that there is life after death. The geese will return to Wynford Drive. Christ will rise again and again in the hearts of all who follow his way. And death will be no more. Easter blessings to you all.

Written in Love Jeanne.

EASTER WORSHIP

The meditations in this Easter worship service are several portions of scripture that tell the story of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, to the cross, to the grave, to the empty tomb. While listening to the various parts of the story, the worshippers will focus on a picture of the story or an object symbolic of the action in the story. The following will assist in the preparation of the meditation.

1. Chose one of the following ways to symbolize the scripture readings:
   A. Tableau scenes which visualize each story *OR*
   B. Items that represent the stories placed on a table. Some of the items will be given to each worshipper.
2. A tableau is "a silent and motionless group of people etc. arranged to represent a scene" (Oxford Dictionary). Three or four people will be required for each scene. If your group is large, several people may like to take part. Otherwise the same people could perform in each tableau.
3. The tableaux will have to be rehearsed beforehand, so they are simple, yet effective. Use simple costumes and props.
4. If the worship space is large, have the tableaux and the worshippers move to different locations. This would work well in the church sanctuary.
5. If you are in a small space, have the tableaux depicted at the front and centre with the readers to one side. Tableaux should be formed as the scripture is being read.
6. If you are using only the symbols, prepare a table with a white cloth. Have the table at the front and centre of the worship space with the readers to one side. Place the symbol on the table before reading the scripture.
7. Symbols needed:

palm branch and vase
small bowl or pitcher of water and a towel
piece of board that resembles a club
length of coarse rope, perhaps with a loop tied at one end
simple cross made of stone, wood or tree branches
white candle in a holder and match
jar or decanter of mildly scented oil
loaf of bread
length of purple cloth
a nail for each worshipper
a small stone for each worshipper
medium sized stone

8. Rehearse the song "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" (1997 Book of Praise #233). This will be a congregational response but could be a solo.
9. After each story is told, the worshippers will respond with a unison prayer and the singing of the first line of "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?"

JESUS' JOURNEY

Call to Worship:

Side 1 Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
Side 2 Let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
Side 1 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
Side 2 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
Side 1 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
Side 2 So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
Side 1 You will leave Babylon with joy; you will be led out of the city in peace.

Side 2 The mountains and hills will burst into singing
All And the trees will shout for joy. (adapted from Isaiah 55:6–12)

LEADER: Let us pray.

Eternal God, you are Presence in our midst.

In Jesus of Nazareth, you came and lived among us, sharing our common lot.

Through the Holy Spirit, you walk beside us and with us into the future.

Praise be to you, Holy God. Amen

HYMN: "Ride on, ride on in majesty" 217 (1997) 176 (1972)

MEDITATION: Come. Follow me along the road of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, to the cross, to the grave, to the empty tomb.

TRIUMPHAL ENTRY: Mark 11:7–10

TABLEAU: Jesus, in the centre of the crowd, greets them. Two to four people form a pathway of cloaks and palm branches. Some may wave palm branches, smiling with excitement. Create a parade atmosphere.

SYMBOL: Place a palm branch on the table or in a vase.

WORSHIPPERS' RESPONSE: We greet you with joy, O Lord, as you come among us. May our joy be genuine. Let it be enduring beyond the moment, through the whole of life. In Jesus name we joyously pray. Amen. *(**Sing** - "Were you there...")*

ANOINTING AT BETHANY: Mark 14:3–9

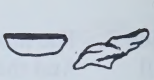
TABLEAU: Jesus is seated on the floor with a woman kneeling in front of him. Jesus is looking compassionately at the woman as she holds a flask or bottle with which she is pouring oil on Jesus' feet. Two or three others are seated or standing watching, either meditatively or in disgust.

SYMBOL: Place a jar or decanter of oil on the table. You may choose to anoint each worshipper's hand with the oil.

RESPONSE: We don't know how to love you, Lord. Sometimes we are in awe of you. Sometimes we want to rebuke you. Turn our focus from how we love you toward how you love us and let us rejoice in that. Through Christ we pray. Amen *(**Sing** - "Were you there...")*

WASHING DISCIPLES FEET: John 3:3–5 or 3:3–10a

TABLEAU: Two to four disciples sit on the floor in awe as Jesus, bent down with a towel and basin, washes their feet.

SYMBOL: Place a pitcher or basin of water and a towel on the table. 

RESPONSE: God, Binder of wounds, we acknowledge that the towel and basin carried more than water. They carried the truth about greatness and servanthood. Carry that same truth to us and beyond us to the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen *(**Sing** - "Were you there...")*

OUR LORD'S SUPPER: Mark 14: 12–15 and 22-26

TABLEAU: A lone figure (Jesus) stands before the group, holding out both hands with extended arms. In each hand is a piece of broken bread. The figure looks into the eyes of the members of the group.

SYMBOL: A broken loaf of bread is placed on the table.

RESPONSE: Bread of Life, as we continue to accompany you in your journey to the cross, may we be nourished by your continual outpouring of love and life for us. Through Christ we pray. Amen *(**Sing** - "Were you there...)*

BETRAYAL AND ARREST: Mark 14:43–50

TABLEAU: Two figures stand facing one another (Jesus and Judas). They clasp each other's hands. Judas is poised leaning toward Jesus as though about to kiss him.

SYMBOL: A piece of board or a club is placed on the table.

RESPONSE: Journeying with you, O Lord, reminds us of the sinister power of betrayal. Forgive us our kisses of deceit. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen *(**Sing** – "Were you there ...")*

JESUS BEFORE PILATE: Mark 15:1–15

TABLEAU: A lone figure–Jesus– bent over, kneeling before the group. While the scripture is being read, each member of the group murmurs quietly the words "crucify him" over and over again until the reading is finished.

SYMBOL: A length of course rope is placed on the table.

RESPONSE: The journey you took for us, which we remember today, is a journey through injustice, false imprisonment, abuse and inhumanity. Deliver us from such evil and use us, O Lord, to work with all our heart against such cruelties. In the strong name of Christ we pray. Amen *(**Sing** – "Were you there...")*

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED: Mark 15:21–25 and 33–39

TABLEAU: Jesus is standing with arms outstretched as if on a cross. Three or four peo-

ple are gathered around either kneeling at his feet or standing off to the side with heads bowed.

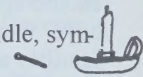
SYMBOL: Before reading, quietly give a nail to each worshipper. Place a stark cross on the table.

RESPONSE: Thank you, Loving Saviour, for dying for my sin. Amen ***(Sing*** – *"Were you there..."*)

JESUS' RESURRECTION: John 20:1–18

TABLEAU: Jesus stands in the centre, his arms outstretched toward to the people. Three or four people kneel or stand around him, heads lifted or arms outstretched toward him.

SYMBOL: Place a white candle on the table. Light it, as this is the Christ candle, symbolizing Christ, the Light of the World.



RESPONSE: Thank you, O God, for new life in Christ. We journey into the world with the light of Christ in our lives. Amen

SING - "Jesus Christ is risen today, Hallelujah" verse 1 190 (1992) or 243 (1997)

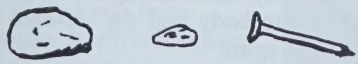
CLOSING PRAYER

O God, you have come to be among us in flesh and blood as Jesus, the Christ. Your sharing of our humanity in him is complete. Our experiences of pain, misunderstanding, conflict and despair are Christ's experiences too. In the end, you turned defeat into victory, darkness into light, enmity into love, death into life through his crucifixion and resurrection. For this we give you thanks O God; to this we give our lives. Amen

CLOSING HYMN "Thine be the glory" 258 (1997) 201 (1972)

LEADER: Jesus Christ is risen
ALL : Alleluia, Amen!

Prepared by Regional Staff Synod/Synodical of Toronto & Kingston:
Jackie Keatings, Youth Consultant
Lynda Reid, Education Consultant
Harry Waite, Mission Superintendent



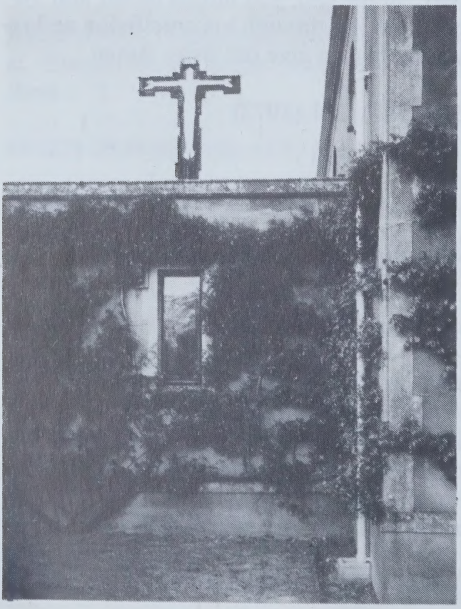
Re-creation at Burrswood

by Joy Hunter

In August I spent a month working as a placement counselor at Burrswood in Kent, England. Burrswood is a unique Christian Centre for healthcare and ministry providing short-term inpatient care. I am a psychotherapist and for the past eight years I have worked with individuals, couples, families and groups in a variety of settings.

In May 1996 I was privileged to be part of a group of doctors, counselors, nurses and ministers who went on a fact-finding mission to Burrswood for ten days.

It was a beautiful English spring and a time of re-creation for us all. Burrswood lies in the heart of the English countryside in Kent, which is known as the garden of England.



Our day began with breakfast in bed brought by Sophia, a gracious young woman who spoke of her joy in preparing breakfast trays and helping us to begin our day in a joyful way.

The house itself was a home, not an institution. It was beautifully furnished with fresh flowers everywhere. Walking in the gardens was a treat. There were carpets of bluebells, lilac bushes, rhododendrons and azaleas and a multitude of trees providing shelter and shade.

We were all very impressed by the peace of Burrswood and I was curious to experience what it would be like to be on the other side, as part of the team caring for patients. Two years later I applied for a month's placement and was accepted. I wondered how the non-hierarchical approach and the patient-centered care would work in practice.

At Burrswood there are two resident doctors, visiting consultants in many specialties and a team of caring nurses. Acute illness can be investigated and treated and expert symptom control offered for chronic and terminal conditions. Skilled counselors work alongside the doctors, physiotherapists and chaplains.

Burrswood has a non-surgical hospital wing and the focus is on treating the whole person, body, mind and spirit - both the disease of the body and the *dis*-ease of the mind and spirit.

Patients come from different parts of England and from overseas. They are from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds. Forty percent of patients pay for themselves, 20% receive help from other

sources, such as individual health plans, and 40% receive care grants from Burrswood which cover the full cost of their treatment.

Each person comes with his own individual needs and all I spoke to said they felt loved and accepted and that they would leave with a sense of peace and refreshment.

While working at Burrswood, I lived with several other women at The Haven, one of the houses in the community. Each morning I appreciated waking up to the sound of birdsong and experiencing a profound sense of peace.

At the beginning of each day members of the community gather together and pray. The first day I was there, the message was about love being the spirit of Burrswood. "We need to love each other, then our love is communicated to the patients."

This became very evident to me during my stay. The staff works extremely hard and shares a common vision and a very down to earth attitude. Shared responsibility and confidentiality contribute to an effective team approach.

The Church of Christ the Healer, Church of England [Anglican], is at the centre of the work of Burrswood. Attending worship is entirely optional but for those who choose, there are two services daily, one of which is Holy Communion. There are four Healing Services each week which are open to the public. It was a great privilege to be involved in three healing services with the laying on of hands while I was there.

Dorothy Kerin was miraculously healed after ten years of serious illness. In fact she was seen to be clinically dead, and had an after-death experience.

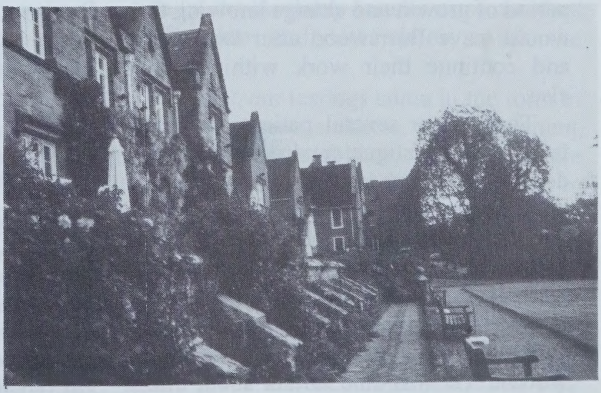
She heard the Lord ask her "Dorothy, will you go back and do something for me? She answered "Yes, Lord." She was then told to get up and walk. In her restoration to health, Dorothy was entrusted with a message to the whole world: a promise of healing to the sick, comfort to the suffering and faith to the faithless.

For the next 17 years she was prepared for her ultimate ministry-to open a Healing Centre, where people could come and experience first-hand the power of God through medical and spiritual healing. In 1948 Burrswood was opened and Dorothy's dream came true.

The first team meeting I attended was impressive. I was struck by the respect the team shared for each patient and their concern to do their best for each one. It was a new experience for me to work in a multi-disciplinary team.

The benefits for the patients were wonderful. Chaplain, doctor and counselor contributed their knowledge-the chaplain might suggest something to the doctor, and the counselor to the chaplain, and vice versa. Burrswood is unique in the blurring of the roles. The nurses do an incredible job of caring, loving, praying, and meeting needs.

All the meetings I attended began with prayer. At the admissions meeting there



was discussion about where five new patients would be placed. Rooms were juggled around to ensure that each person was given the room that suited them best. During my first week I noticed how often people prayed - arrow prayers (quick, short prayers) in groups, when needed.

There are two small Chapels at Burrswood: *The Oratory*, which is rather ornate in the Italian style, and *The Chapel of the Good Shepherd* in the garden, complete with black sheep!

It was a great blessing for several patients to be able to lay their burdens down in a small service specially tailored to their needs. Sometimes the service involved the sacraments, sometimes writing letters and placing them on the altar, sometimes receiving absolution from the chaplain.

People come to Burrswood from all walks of life and for many different reasons. Everyone I spoke to appreciated the love and care that they received and most of them experienced a deep peace that enabled them to feel safe enough to let go during their stay and allow God to work.

As a counselor it was different for me to see patients every day. I was constantly amazed at how much healing happened in such a short time. It was strange to accompany someone through such an intense period of growth and change knowing they would leave Burrswood after two weeks and continue their work with someone else.

There were several patients suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome in varying degrees who were learning to manage their tiredness and their debilitation.

Others came to let go of the past and to forgive and receive forgiveness; others were in the process of working through trauma and abuse to integration. Someone spoke of the "overwhelming of Burrswood". He was able to talk about things he'd never talked about before.

They were all grateful for the time apart, for beautiful surroundings and the skilful and dedicated staff who have time to give in an atmosphere of mutual trust undergirded by prayer. Burrswood is ideally designed to look after people as a whole.

Excellent medical care is given and mind and spirit are looked after. Patients find the love of Christ expressed in so many practical ways as they recover from major surgery, serious illnesses and psychiatric problems.

Exhaustion is the biggest problem. Life is very intense and at times everyone is stretched to his or her limits. At these times staff members can use each other as resources. They relate as friends as well as colleagues and pray for one another as the need arises.

As staff members are involved in leading prayer for healing and laying on of hands there is a constant need for self-examination, repentance and accountability one to another which cannot be ignored.

In my last prayer meeting the worship leader read a beautiful poem she had written about how much God loves us and how important it is for each of us to take time to receive God's love and to allow that to overflow to others.

In a world where so many are hurting, Burrswood has a unique contribution to make, providing a safe place where time is given and love surrounds each patient and caregiver.

For further information contact: Burrswood, Groombridge, Tunbridge Wells, Kent England TN3 9PY Fax: 01892 862597

Joy Hunter MTS is a professional therapist and workshop leader. She is a clinical member of The Ontario Society of Psychotherapists, interned at the Hamilton Pastoral Counseling Centre and has a diploma in pastoral and cross cultural studies from ANCC in England. Joy can be reached at 416 363-4032.

The Greatest Rescue

by Gail Northgrave

The stench of booze, tobacco and urine accompanied Bill as he entered my office at the Men's Mission. However, his one-tooth grin assured me that he felt accepted. Forty-three and severely brain damaged due to alcohol, he still believed in God. "I like hearing about God," he confided. Occasionally he had attended my bible studies sessions.

After Bill left, I rotated my chair to glance out my window and absorb his comment. As I gazed at the traffic lights flashing from red to green and the huge milk billboard, I mentally started my next Bible class. What did Bill and the others need to hear about God? What did I need to learn about God?

The necessary ingredients of prayer, research and meditation blended the words of mercy and justice into one powerful word: *rescue*. "*Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed*" (Jeremiah 22:3). Furthermore, Zechariah 7:9 reads, "*Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion....*"

Since we have all offended God, we all need to be rescued from the "oppressor". God's story of rescuing begins in Genesis and continues through to Revelation and into today.

God chose to call imperfect men and women into a relationship, but because of the power of choice, God would always have to wait for us to respond. a period of testing would occur to discover if we loved for Himself or for His gifts.

Our heroes are those who responded to God's call, passed the love test and went on to victory.

Noah faced ridicule as he built the ark. Abraham, given a son, was asked to sacrifice him. Joseph received a dream of glory, but was thrown into a well and sold as a slave by his brothers. Daniel was placed in a fiery furnace for refusing to worship a golden idol. Mary and Joseph were asked to be parents for Jesus while they were unwed. Mary's "yes" to be pregnant while unwed undoubtedly caused gossip and pain for both of them.

While on earth Jesus demonstrated God's mercy and justice. He accepted us as we were-damaged, sinful, imperfect and sorrowful. He went about healing the sick, feeding the hungry, freeing those oppressed by Satan, and raising the dead.

Then, to bring us into the son/daughter relationship with God, He sacrificed His life for us. At thirty-three, when He was at the peak of human strength and potential, He chose to die so that we could live. He allowed Himself to be ridiculed, stripped, beaten, spit upon, tortured and whipped until His flesh resembled raw meat.

Finally, those healing, consoling hands were rendered powerless as they were nailed to a cross. However, His resurrection on the third day assures us of our final destination and His victory over the oppressor.

Today, our testings come in the form of discouragement, sickness. unemployment, or relationship problems. Testings where we are asked to make a choice. A choice to trust and to obey or to rebel against God's laws.

Whenever I face testings, I quickly return to the heroes of the Bible and reread and meditate on the trials of these courageous men and women. Their final outcome gives me encouragement, their test-

ing always resulted in victory and freedom.

God never changes. God is the same today as yesterday-still calling men and women, still healing, forgiving and setting us free. God still desires an intimate relationship. And, the choice is still up to us.

The apostles and the followers of Jesus and those who believe in Him today, now with the Gift of the Holy Spirit, continue the work He commissioned them to do.

Today, we need to continue to rescue, to show God's justice and mercy.

The next time Bill walks into my office and flashes me a one-tooth grin, I will thank him for teaching me about the justice and mercy of God.

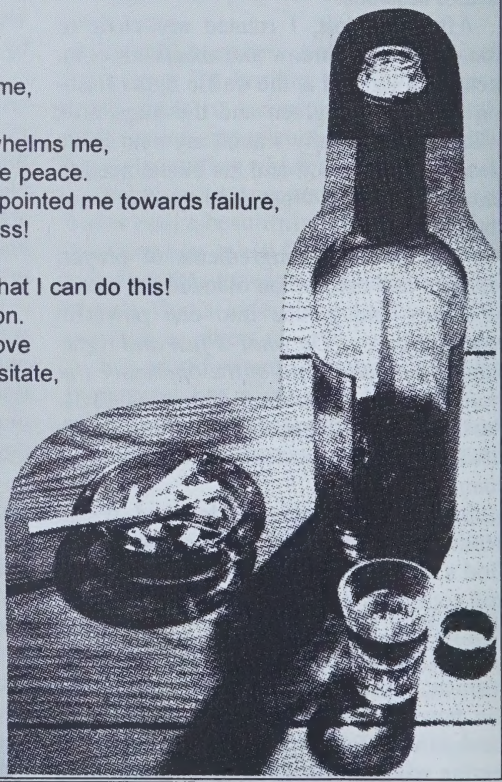
When Breaking an Addiction

Gracious Lord,
Where the fabric of addiction holds me,
I know that faith can release me.
Where the fear of quitting immobilizes me,
I know that prayer can give me wings.
Where the anxiety of uncertainty overwhelms me,
I know that hope, and love, can give me peace.
And where years of dependency have pointed me towards failure,
I know that grace will lead me to success!

Through the goodness of God I know that I can do this!
I know that I can be free of this addiction.
And I know that I can, and will, rise above
All of the things that are making me hesitate,
Now.

God be strength,
my hope,
and my courage,
Now and forever. Amen

Roberta McClelland



Striving for Perfection

by Maria Stam

A wise elderly woman, who had spent most of her life in education, recently said to me, "Today's society only wants perfect people." When I asked her what made her think that way, she replied, "At present, young persons are constantly encouraged to upgrade their knowledge, in particular in technology and computer literacy. They hardly have time for living."

We all are striving for perfection, and with today's demand to adjust to new developments we feel pressured to follow suit. Yet, the steady advances in technology happen so fast that we have a hard time keeping up. Even in day to day life we strive to be perfect in our work and home, in raising our children or in relating to our grandchildren.

But deep down we know, we humans are not perfect. Emotional and other needs are in our way. We get tired, frustrated, angry; we have desires and fears and we grieve. Our earthly functions hinder us from being perfect. We know that God is perfect and some of God's perfection is reflected in innocent children, in animals and in nature.

I discovered the manifestation of God's perfection this spring in a well-crafted bird's nest built in a cedar in front of our house. I was surprised by the robin's ingenuity in planning this place while it was still peaceful around our crescent, but to abandon it when construction nearby disturbed our neighbourhood.

Then the robins disappeared, and as I later detected, they found a safer tree. They left one egg in the abandoned nest. I waited for one week, but when I realized that the birds would not return, I carefully lifted it from the cedar branches and placed it into a basket.

For the first time I had a chance to study this masterwork closely. Indeed, it was perfectly built with twigs, grasses and dried

Signs of God's Love

The rising morning sun
reveals God's caring love.
With each new day
God delegates to creatures
to co-create and shape life on earth.

God's love speaks to us
through the innocence
of little children,
the gentle touch of healing hands,
the dedication of believers
and words spoken by the wise.

As night unfolds
with countless stars,
we are allowed a glimpse
of God's domain,
assuring us that we can rest
in God's embracing love.

Maria Stam

leaves. It even had a thin piece of wire woven into the organic material. They had secured the bottom with mud and longer, more sturdier twigs to form a platform onto the fragile cedar branches. In the middle of the nest was a soft cushion of short, fine pieces of grass for the hatching of the eggs.

Animals, like innocent children, are not distracted by their ego and conscious minds as we humans are. They live from moment to moment and rejoice in their existence without being weighted down by earthly affairs.

The goal to become perfect continues to challenge us throughout our life until at an older age we step aback and look at our imperfect past. Then we can smile at our human frailty and admit that we tried but failed.

Sometimes we learned from our mistakes and improved, but the older one becomes the more one recognizes that perfection is hard to reach. The knowledge that we are not the only imperfect person helps us to accept ourselves the way we are in gratitude to our perfect Lord.

Artistry

Some will wave a music baton
and compose such exquisite song.

Some will wave an artist's brush
and paint still life, oh so lush.

Some will sweep with ink-filled pen
and create poetics for gods and men.

But the greatest Artist
does not work with paper, canvas or stone
He fashions with the spirit, flesh and bone.

God's works of art do not receive empty chortle
He designs living persons, making them immortal.

Joan Bond

Fairlie Ritchie

An Unusual Mission: Ecumenical Representative

by Gail Turner

One of the little-known avenues of service in The Presbyterian Church in Canada is that of representing our Church in an ecumenical coalition. Rev. Fairlie Ritchie of St. Andrew's in Hillsburgh, Ontario is one of these representatives.

In 1994 she was newly-returned to the Toronto area and looking for a place to be active. As it happened, a Presbyterian representative was needed for ECPAT-Canada, the Canadian chapter of the international organization that works to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children, especially in the tourist industry.

"At the time," she recounts, "it appeared to be a short-term commitment." ECPAT was initiated by a small group of Australian Christians who were concerned about the growing number of children in East Asia being recruited into prostitution, especially to service the tourist industry.

"That initial group gave themselves five years to try and draw this problem to international attention," Fairlie explained. "By the time I joined, they were more than half-way through their mandate, a number of international chapters had appeared and in Canada there was a bill progressing through Parliament to make it possible to prosecute offenders in Canada no matter where the offense occurred."

ECPAT International culminated its work in 1996 by holding a conference in Helsinki, Sweden, attended by many governments and non-governmental organizations. Thinking this might be the end of ECPAT's work, Fairlie asked for another opportunity to work ecumenically.

She accepted a nomination to the Women's Economic Justice (WEJ) working group of the Ecumenical Coalition for Economic Justice (ECEJ). But it was not the end of ECPAT. "So now," she says with a smile, "I work with two coalitions."

At the Helsinki conference ECPAT widened its mandate and changed its name from *End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism* to *End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes*.

Over the next year ECPAT-Canada organized a number of regional consultations with young street sex trade workers and in March 1998 hosted *Out of the Shadows*, a symposium featuring the voices of 55 delegates with experience as sexually-exploited youth.

As noted in the Preamble to the Declaration and Agenda for Action developed there, "It became immediately apparent that what the youth present really needed was a safe place to tell their stories and relate their experiences. Through the tears, pain, experiences and hopes expressed, themes, beliefs and recommendations began to emerge."

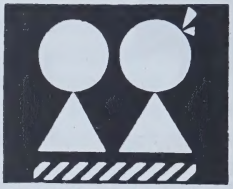
Meanwhile, at meetings of WEJ, Fairlie is learning of the economic exploitation many women face right in our own country. One project WEJ worked on was the inclusion of questions about unpaid work on the census questionnaire. "As a result," Fairlie explains, "we now have the

first Canadian statistics on how much time women and men spend in child care, housework and volunteer activities. In a time when more and more reliance is put on families and volunteers to supply services formerly available through government funded agencies, these statistics will document the ongoing impact on women's lives."

Another current WEJ project is support for home workers in the textile trade. As members of the Labour behind *the Label Coalition* they are documenting the often unfair and exploitative labour practices faced by home-based workers.

I asked Fairlie what prompted her interest in social justice. "It wasn't any one event," she recalls, "but I remember, as a teen-ager, that our church youth group frequently raised justice concerns in its programs. I have always seen social justice as integral to the gospel, and it was natural to look for opportunities to put my beliefs into practice."

According to Fairlie, being an ecumenical representative is a very satisfying ministry. But she is also ready to pass the torch to others. "I need to step down from either ECPAT or WEJ now to reduce my own workload and I want to give others the chance to participate in this type of ministry. It is quite a wonderful experience and I would certainly encourage any interested person to accept such an opportunity when it arises."



- ECPAT Campaign Logo.

For more information on the work of ECPAT or the Women's Economic Justice Working Group contact:

ECPAT
Suite 210, 517 College Street
Toronto, ON M6G 4A2
Ph. (416) 323-9726
mitvic@interlog.com

Women's Economic Justice
c/o Ecumenical Coalition for Economic Justice
947 Queen Street E., Suite 208
Toronto, ON M4M 1J9
Ph. (416) 462-1613, Fax: (416) 463-5569
Ecej@accessv.com

Persons interested in becoming an ecumenical representative should contact *International Ministries* or *Justice Ministries* for information about needs and qualifications.

Gail Turner is Program Assistant, Justice Ministries. Her article is based on an interview with Fairlie Ritchie, July 7, 1998.

Ewart Lay Ministry Consultant

Funded by the Ewart Endowment

If you have a passion for lay ministry and proven expertise in adult education, consider this half-time, contract position commencing September 1, 1999. Open to members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Application deadline: April 30, 1999. For position description contact Mrs. Margaret McGillivray, 29 Sherwood Rise, Dundas, ON L9H 4E9 (telephone 905 627-3020) or check the Women in Ministry home page (www.presbycan.ca/wim).

A Tavern Turns into a Hostel for Women and Children

by Margaret McGillivray

Hamilton's Mission Services decision to buy a rundown hotel last year is a real estate deal Hamilton's citizens will talk about for years to come. It created amusement, amazement, excitement and absolute awe at God's ability to do the impossible.

Inasmuch House had been looking for months for a larger facility for their women and children who have been housed since 1972 in two old adjoining houses on Emerald Street in Hamilton.

A 2.2 million dollar provincial grant provided Mission Services with the opportunity to bid on a property, but alas the sale did not go through. Staff at this point were very discouraged. Someone suggested that the owners of the Bayview Tavern, John and Michael Penich, be approached as this tavern backs onto the current Mission Services main buildings.

The Site for the New Inasmuch House

A deal was finally struck, because, as luck would have it, the brothers were considering selling the business. In November of 1997, the papers were signed, and in June of 1998 restoration and reconstruction of the tavern began.

The new building is a dream for staff and current director Carolyn Weber-Downey. They will realize 60% more floor space which includes lovely modern kitchen facilities and much needed office space. In January 1999, the residents and staff will take up residence in their new home.

Knox Presbyterian Church in Dundas has been assisting at Inasmuch House since 1989. There is a real need to bridge the gap between the "haves and have nots" in our community. We, at Knox, have been pleased to supply the women and children

of Inasmuch House with food, cosmetics, toys, new and used clothing, household goods and our financial support, but especially our prayers that life will be a little bit better for these families because they have passed through the Inasmuch Program. For some, Christ has become a reality in their lives.

Margaret McGillivray is a member of Knox Presbyterian Church, Dundas, Ontario. She served on the Justice Committee for three years.

Easter

Jesus died to save us,
He died so we could live;
And every time we make mistakes,
He's willing to forgive.

Amanda Carter

1,360 homeless children are living in Toronto's emergency hostels - *Toronto Star* Dec. 8/98

Emergency housing, food banks, out-of-the-cold programs:
in many ways we stretch out hands of mercy to the homeless. . .

But how do we give them justice?

Call *Justice Ministries* for information on how to strengthen your outreach ministry with a focus on justice.

We can tell you about activities like Campaign 2000 to abolish child poverty in Canada
and about study resources like: *Promises to Keep, Miles to Go,* now available from The Book Room.

We can also arrange presentations and workshops on justice ministry.
Call Gail (ext. 250) at 416-441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301

Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

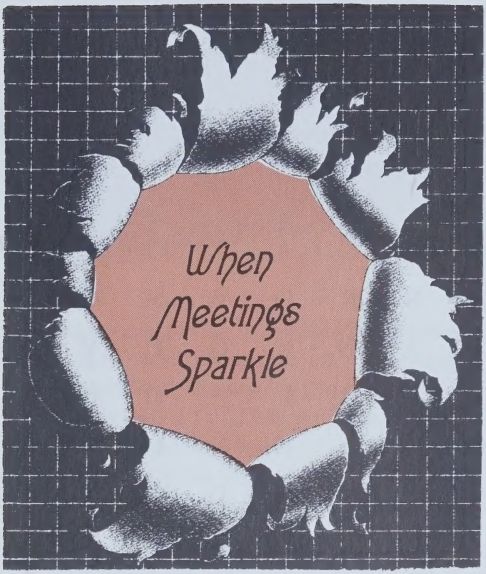
Word Search Puzzle

by Rebecca Carter,
a grade nine student who attends Knox Presbyterian Church Kouchibouguac, New Brunswick

V I L L A L O N G A F O L
A L L I S O N B R O W N O
C J O R N A J A N K G U V
S O A A L B A R R I E O E
C N I N S X O S A N D H G
H E N D E R S O N G D A N
W S G A Q H A U L R E Y I
A K L L D G V M I O S O L
R Y I L L S A L L E N U R
Z Z S M N U G O R D O N A
G O A Q C R E E D J M G P
H I C K L I N G C F E R S
J A M D C H S O T N I C M

Learn the names of our overseas mission staff by locating the names listed in the puzzle.

KING
REED
BARRIE
YOUNG
HENDERSON
RANDALL
HICKLING
SCHWARZ
GORDON
JONES
JORNA
INGLIS
KIM
ALLEN
VILLALONGA
SPARLING
BROWN
BARSOUM
ALLISON
ONUOHA
MCINTOSH
SAVAGE
GEDDES



WMS - ***W***hen ***M***eetings ***S***parkle.
WMS - You probably thought WMS meant the Women's Missionary Society. You are right it does. But it also may mean some things you did not expect. Men attend WMS meetings. And men are members of the Society. This is new. Maybe we should change the name to World Mission Society, and keep the initials-WMS. And also keep the sparkle in the meetings, as in When Meetings Sparkle.

As a member, I attend as many meetings as I can. And there is plenty of sparkle. That usually depends on the leader of the meeting. It sometimes also depends on those who are at the meeting.

What should you look for in a meeting that adds sparkle? A subject worth thinking about is one. There is always that in a WMS meeting. It is worth our attention to learn more about what our religion means and how it affects our ideas and actions towards others in our world.

It is also important for us to learn about our new neighbours in our city and in "the global village"-the world. How do their religions and cultures differ from ours, and how do these things affect their ideas and actions?

Such awareness of neighbours is growing in importance in a world that is becoming smaller daily by ever faster travel via trains and planes, and ever faster communications via satellites and internet. We need to understand each other and, even enjoy each other, to make possible a happy harmony in our living together today and in the future.

We have a mission in our own city and church too. The subject of the last meeting was about how we can help to make ourselves and others more effective members of St. John's Church. Effective members are of more use to the Lord of the world, Jesus. (Perhaps we are also the WMS-the World Master's Servants).

How to be effective members was shown in the subject matter and in the method of presenting it used by our excellent, effective leader, Ina Borger. She gave us each a role to play in the meeting.

Ina used ideas that add sparkle, such as the leader introduces the subject and turns it over to the attending people to deal with. Ina did that well. Then she used a method that was effective in getting all present to think and speak up with their ideas.

It makes a meeting sparkle if even one or two will then speak up and say what they think about the subject. But from where I sat I would say that ALL OF US found something to say-AND SAID IT. That is WMS-When Meetings Sparkle. Or, Women's Missionary Society. OR, in this case-both.

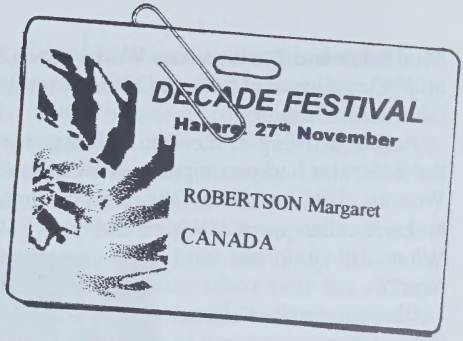
Rev. Bill Palmer, WMS

- From "Accent" September 1998, newsletter of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Winnipeg. Submitted by Jean Campbell.

Journey to Africa

Delegates of the Presbyterian Church in Canada Adele Halliday, Rev. Karen Hincke, Rev. Ken Stright and Rev. Margaret Robertson visit projects, churches, celebrate the Decade and share with brothers and sisters from around the world.

Photos: Ken, Margaret, Karen and Adele above at Nam'ngazi farm; below, stage at Decade Festival, Harare.



Your Story is My Story

by Margaret Robertson

Your story is my story, your story is our story, was our response after hearing each of five stories of violence, presented by the women who had experienced the violence.

There was something that each of us, over 1000 women and a few men could identify with, either from our own experience or from the experience of someone close to us.

We had come from around the world to attend the World Council of Churches Decade Festival in Harare, Zimbabwe, Nov 27-30, 1998. It was the event to celebrate the end of the Ecumenical Decade, Churches in Solidarity with Women in Church and Society.

How could we celebrate when the work had not been completed, or even started in some churches? Was it really the churches in solidarity with women or did it turn out to be the women in solidarity with the churches, as one presenter suggested?

Adele Halliday, Rev. Karen Hincke, Rev. Ken Stright and I arrived as delegates from the Presbyterian Church in Canada. We were four of 50 Canadian delegates. What could we expect? What could we learn?

We had spent eight days travelling in Malawi, visiting people and places that we had heard about for many years; people and places supported through International

Ministries and Presbyterian World Service and Development of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Before arriving at the Festival, many of the delegates had participated in Woman to Woman visits in Africa. Our first questions to each other were, "Where did you go? What did you see and hear?"

We came to the Festival with different eyes, ears and feelings than if we had arrived directly from Canada. We had heard stories of poverty and struggle but also of life and energy. We came prepared for the Festival with new insights (and a love for African music). Someone suggested that we had travelled in the footsteps of Jesus.

The people and their stories had revived our passion for working with and for others. We could understand the stories a little from our Canadian context. We understood them far more clearly from our personal visits.

Ken Stright and Adele Halliday with Linda Inglis, centre at St. Michael's and All Angels, Blantyre Synod.

On our first Sunday in Malawi, I preached to about 900 people in a Presbyterian church in Mzuzu. I will always remember their music, their enthusiasm and their commitment to worship.

My sermon was based on the story of the Samaritan woman. I talked about how she was compelled to tell her friends and family the story of her encounter with Jesus. The gospel story is our story. The message is the same in Africa as in Canada. The illustrations are different. But the gospel story has more impact in Africa.

I had a conversation in Harare with a white African who said that our churches are decreasing because there is no struggle in Canada. This is one of my stories and it is disturbing. Is our life too comfortable? We hear about increasing poverty and violence in Canada. But, it doesn't touch us in the same way.

What is a Canadian story? In the Women's Missionary Society, one or two groups disband each month. Does that mean that we have lost our passion for mission? Who will tell the story now? Has it taken a new form?

Groups form and meet when there is a passion and real need. Women tell me that we need to continue women's groups. What is the need? Is it homeless people, poverty, decreased health care provisions, increasing unemployment, seniors needing transportation for groceries and/or medical services, mental health patients prematurely released from hospitals, problems resulting from dysfunctional life styles, violence in any of its forms? Is their story, our story?

At the Decade Festival, I met many women who have a passion for telling and working with their story, a passion that comes from the scripture call to help and to heal.

For example; many women's groups in Africa are working with AIDs orphans, particularly in Day Care centres (which allows the children to live with extended families). We don't have the same scenario, but we have other needs.

We connected with the global stories of

violence and oppression. Yes, we have many forms of violence in Canada, but in Southern countries violence is compounded by poverty, war, globalization, poor economies and much more. We can say, *your story is my story, your story is our story.* We can only begin to understand their story.

What did we do at this Decade Festival, this global gathering, that we can work on in Canada? How can we work with the stories we heard? We, as delegates, prepared a letter to the 8th Assembly of the World Council of Churches. It was presented on December 7th, 1998. The letter was the core task of our gathering.

Visitors with the Women's Guild, Livingstonia Synod.

At times we were hampered by wording and theological differences. Two words became difficult, *gender issues.* In some churches, particularly the Orthodox, these words are taboo. But a miracle happened: after many suggestions for wording, and after the speakers met to discuss wording, we approved the changes with loud and long applause. We had come to consensus. We could truly celebrate. It was a Festival after all!

The letter to the Assembly was then given to the Policy committee to prepare recommendations. The end result was stronger than we expected. Could this be another miracle? It was definitely the work of God's hand. The stories had found a new direction.

I challenge each of you in your congregations, committees and groups to help support and promote the following:

Recommendations to the 8th Assembly of the World Council of Churches 1998

1. The Council prepare guidelines for inter-gender conduct which incorporate the understanding that any form of violence against women is a sin.

2. The churches provide opportunities for women to speak out about the issues of violence and abuse where both the victims and the perpetrators of violence can experience the power of forgiveness and reconciliation. The need is recognized for repentance for actions and omissions with regard to the inclusivity of women and the violence of which many have been victims.

3. The Assembly affirms the ongoing work of the WCC on delegitimizing war, commends the Central Committee statement of 1995 on Overcoming Violence, and other statements of the WCC especially as such statements impact on women and children who are the innocent victims of war and violence.

4. The Assembly encourages the use of liturgies, language, and policies that support the inclusion of persons in leadership positions in all levels of the churches life and ministry, especially in regard to the issues of gender, age, race, cultural background and disability.

5. The WCC advocate debt cancellation measures and that the resources saved as a result be used for the improvement in quality of life, especially for women, youth and children.

6. The WCC denounce the commercial

sexual exploitation of women and children, such as sex slavery, prostitution, pornography, and all such trafficking of women and children.

7. The WCC support the development of just economic systems and structures in church and society so that people regardless of gender, age, race, cultural background, or ability may experience the blessings of justice, equal pay for equal work, sustainable and livable wages, and honourable labour practices.

8. The Assembly commend to member churches the UN document Beijing Platform for Action and the UN Decade entitled *Decade of Eradication of Poverty 1997-2007.*

9. The Assembly ask the member churches to find ways to keep the goals of the Decade before them.

Most importantly, work on issues concerning women will continue. Further information may be obtained from Margaret Robertson, WMS Office.

Most of the Canadian delegates in front of Daring Hope banner at Harare.

Photos: Margaret Robertson and Karen Hincke

That Day in November

by Adele Halliday

I remember that day in November. My palms were damp with anticipation, my stomach curled and fluttered with nervousness, and there was a feeling of excitement pulsing through my veins.

So were my feelings as I began my journey in the African continent. I went to represent the Presbyterian Church in Canada at the 8th Assembly for the World Council of Churches in Harare, Zimbabwe. During the next several days and weeks at the Assembly and pre-Assembly events my emotions embraced tensions and tears, joys and jubilee, love and laughter.

I also remember my feelings and questions on the eve of the Assembly. How could I possibly be worthy of such an awesome experience? What wonderful things have I done in my relatively short lifetime to warrant such an honour?

Surely, there are people who have done more than I, or worked harder than I, who could have done a better job at representing our national church than myself? I mean, me, one of the two delegates to an international assembly that only takes place once every seven years? Me, one of nearly 1000 delegates? What have I done to deserve this?

It was then that I came to a better understanding of what 'grace' is all about. Grace is undeserved, unconditional love that God gives to each of us. Grace is a gift to us, from God. And nothing – absolutely nothing that we do on earth will ever warrant this amazing grace. We have done nothing to deserve the blessings that we have.

I have done nothing to warrant the honour of going to the Assembly, but through grace I was able to go. We have done nothing special to warrant the amazing love that God gives us, but through grace, we know that we are loved. And perhaps, we on

earth have done nothing except cause division in a church where God clearly calls us to be one.

And so with a humble heart, with the grace of God, and with sorrow over a divided Christian church, I began the work of the Assembly. I began to work at the Assembly in Harare, for the World Council of Churches – a fellowship of churches from every region on earth that works towards the unity of Christ's church. I was with Rev. Ken Stright, and the two of us laboured hard together over the duties of the Assembly.

It was a journey in itself just getting to the Assembly. Several days of travel, crossing many different time zones, and an arrival in a country very different from our own. Having the assembly in Zimbabwe, Africa was no accident.

It forced people, many of whom had never journeyed to the African continent, to deal with the abject poverty that the majority of the world's population faces on a daily basis. It forced people to ask themselves the question, in a land where people are so poor that they live on less than a dollar a day, where is the hope?

It made certain that people in the churches of the so-called developed world could not leave and go home without marveling over how people who live in small mud huts with thatched grass roofs, and who eat the same food every day, had so much hope and joy in the Spirit.

In such a gathering as the World Council of Churches Assembly, it is often easy to focus on the differences that separate us. In this international context, people sat together who represented countries that were at war with one another. People with very different ideas of theology worked together towards Christian unity.

This was by far, one of the largest and most visible expressions of Christian unity

Visitors at Blantyre with Glenn and Linda Inglis, right,

on a global scale. It is often only when very diverse people join together in song and in worshipping the same God that our many differences and dissimilarities melt away.

Ken and myself had a chance to attend some pre-Assembly events, and our first stop in Zimbabwe was the Decade Festival, a four-day celebration marking the end of the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1998-1998).

During these days, 1000 women and 100 men gathered to discuss, celebrate and heal. Ken and I were both rarities at the Festival – Ken as a man in a predominantly female event and myself as a young person where the majority of people were middle-aged.

A powerful and moving plenary on violence against women prompted the healing of those who had been victims of physical and emotional violence. We had all been encouraged to bring 'offerings' from our countries and regions to issue huts, which were built in African style and which allowed us to network and gather around common issues.

The young women's presentation allowed those of us under the age of 30 to challenge the gathering and the notion that as young people we were not qualified for leadership because we do not have decades of ecumenical experience. We called upon our elders to remember their own alienation as young people and not to recreate

Margaret's table group, women from Sweden, South Africa, Japan, New Zealand and USA.

for young women the same struggles that they faced in their earlier days.

I left the Decade Festival early to head across town and join the beginning of the Pre-Assembly Youth Event. Nearly 400 people under the age of 30 gathered in their various roles to discuss the impact that we as young people would have on the gathered Assembly.

Although I had left the Decade Festival somewhat reluctantly, I was quickly pulled into the leadership of the Pre-Assembly Youth Event. My hesitation in leaving the Decade Festival came because I work extensively with youth. It is an uncommon occurrence, however, for me to assemble with women from all around the world.

Despite my mixed feelings about the Youth Event, it was excellent. We spent four days celebrating fun and fellowship, getting to know one another as young people and exploring our cultures and diversities. Through cultural nights and presentations, we came to a better understanding of each other's daily lives.

As one of a team of eight, I wrote a paper on youth and ecumenism that was circulated to the gathered assembly and to member churches. We, as young adults, also had a chance to explore and discuss issues that were particularly relevant to us, as well as strategize what impact we would have on the gathered assembly. And so, inspired, we went to the Assembly.

The next several days people arrived quickly on campus for the actual event – the Assembly. Under the theme "Turn to God – Rejoice in Hope", Ken and I soon became busy making our mark on the assembly. Ken was active in putting together a paper from the Decade Festival on a committee, and I became busy with youth issues relating to ecumenism. The Presbyterian Church in Canada became engrossed in making our voices heard, and perhaps unwittingly, making our delegation known to the assembly and to the world in a very positive light!

Our time became quickly filled with meetings, papers, and discussions. We worshipped with 5000 people from all around the world. We prayed and talked with people representing every region on earth. We communicated and saw our words simultaneously translated into five different languages so that we could all understand one another.

We listened to two African Presidents – Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, and Nelson Mandela of South Africa. The General Secretary for the United Nations commended our work on the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations – December 10. And, we had interesting discussions with people of all different backgrounds, experiences, and cultures.

Perhaps the most important and most anticipated thing to come out of this assembly was the global call to a Jubilee. This particular assembly was a Jubilee assembly – after all, a 50th anniversary often represents a Jubilee – but for this Assembly, Jubilee meant something much more than the simple marking of a date of half a century.

It was a call to cancel the debts of the most impoverished nations in the world. Countries who have paid their national debt several times over, and who are still paying interests on a principal that they can never hope to pay. Countries where money

has to be spent servicing the debt instead of paying for the most basic of needs, such as health care, education, clean and potable water, and preventable deaths from curable and communicable diseases. Countries where people are so caught up in the vicious cycle of debt, that they may see no way out and no way to end the intense poverty. Countries like Zimbabwe, where the Assembly itself was held.

In Leviticus 25, the Bible talks about the Jubilee year as a time to release slaves and captives and to restore ancestral land to its rightful owners. At the assembly we talked about the Jubilee as a call to cancel the chains of debt. But the Assembly was not the first time that the words Jubilee were heard.

Coalitions and ecumenical organizations have been active in letting the Jubilee trumpet sound. Last September, we in Canada officially launched our Jubilee initiative. All churches around the world are encouraged to take part in the Jubilee – and Justice Ministries of the Presbyterian Church in Canada can provide more information on how to get involved with this important initiative.

So, with a new hope through the thought of debt cancellation, with new friends met from around the work, with a new inspiration and freedom in Christ, the Assembly ended in Harare. But the memories and the hope, which were inspired at this extraordinary event, will continue to live on forever. May we always remember to 'Turn to God – rejoice in Hope."

I know that will always remember those days in November, and December.

Watch for more in the next issue by Rev. Ken Stright.

March

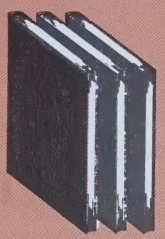
March is a gardener
a lively young fellow
he sprinkles seeds
for dandelion's yellow.
March the magician
gives new things for old
dead sticks in the garden
he turns into gold.
March is a herald
outriding the sun
bearing Glad Tidings
that Spring has begun.

Gladys Nolan

March and April

March, like a virile male
sweeps over hill and dale,
strong and proud he storms the sky
until he meets sweet April's eye,
he is undone, he must retreat
to sit at April's gentle feet.

Gladys Nolan



BOOKS

Order from:
The Book Room
50 Wynford Drive
North York, ON M3C 1J7
416-441-1111 Ext. 239/240
E-mail: Bookroom@presbyterian.ca
Hours: Mon-Fri-9:00-4:45

FOR ORDERING ONLY: 1-800-619-7301
Please do not send payment with your order. (An invoice including postage and applicable tax will be sent with your order.) Please include name and location of congregation. **Note: VISA and Mastercard now accepted.**

Stolen From Our Embrace: The Abduction of First Nations Children and the Restoration of Aboriginal Communities by Suzanne Fournier and Ernie Crey. Douglas and McIntrye. 250 pages, soft cover, 1998.

"I believe that now is the time...We are starting to be looked at now and I believe that we really can make a difference... because we are finally standing up".

These words from Randy Napoose, a Cree from Hobbema, Alberta reflect healthy pride as well as signs of new hope for cultural revitalization and spiritual healing on the part of growing numbers of First Nations people all across Canada today.

This is largely a first person testimony to tragic yet ultimately constructive struggles on the part of very human but valiant native people seeking to rise above circumstances which were largely beyond their control. Tragic, because while some would-be helpers were outright scoundrels, many of those involved were motivated by good yet misguided intentions. Constructive, because more and more First Nations are honestly facing the truth of their past and are determined to build a different life for their children.

Again and again this determination appears. "We're doing this for our children's future." What was once 'stolen from our embrace' must again be restored. The authors, both of whom have native ancestry, pull no punches in their candid assessment of who caused much of the devastation wreaked upon native peoples since the time of beginning encounters with others. Pre-contact societies, though not idyllic, had usually developed time honoured patterns of education for their young and effective procedures for the handling of dysfunction in their communities.

The sexually abusive, addictive devastation and political cronyism which is now the hallmark of many native communities is due largely to government policies as evidenced by the imposition of residential schools and social services agencies. The Indian Act (1876) and the federal bureaucracy of Indian Affairs (now DIAND) restructured native life to make it easier to maintain aboriginals as 'wards of the state'.

The message is clear. In the Spirit of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples Report (1996) many of Canada's First Nations want to reclaim responsibility for educating and caring for their own children. A new generation of leaders, tarnished but wizened by their history, is calling upon people of good will from church and society at large to provide the resources they lack to complete the task of rebuilding.

Strong anger is directed at church persons who abused their positions of power and trust. Descriptions of the terrible pain,

often suffered by children at the hands of non-natives as well as persons from their own families, is heartrending. Before First Nations can fully take responsibility for their own self government, they must start by healing themselves from a deadly mix of perversions and addictions.

Read this book to become enlightened about a people long victimized by misunderstanding, neglect and a skewing of the facts. Work through, individually and in discussion groups, the inevitable shame that sensitive, justice-seeking and spiritually-focused persons will experience, no matter what their race.

Wayne A. Holst

And A Little Bit Farther: More stories of mission by Marj Carpenter. Geneva Press, Louisville, Kentucky

Marj Carpenter, a journalist and storyteller, and a former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church USA, has written with warmth and immediacy of her visits to mission fields throughout the world. One feels that you too are there with her, seeing and conversing with the people she meets.

The absolute isolation of Christians in North Korea is demonstrated by the questions put to Marj Carpenter by a North Korean woman. "Is there still a church in the world? Where is it? Do our friends and neighbours in South Korea go to church?"

Even with the close physical proximity of North Korea, the Christians there do not know of the overflowing churches in South Korea and the nine million Presbyterians.

She tells many inspiring stories of courageous men and women who do Christ's work selflessly, whether dealing with street kids in South America, untouchables in India, prejudice in South Africa or tragedies in Eastern Europe. It makes one grateful to God for people who bring new life and hope through the gospel to those who live in desperate circumstances.

During her Moderatorial year (1995) she visited Guatemala where an indigenous pastor, Manuel Saquic, had been murdered and no attempt by police or government was being made to find the murderer. Marj's ingenuity in getting the ear of the General of Guatemala to see that justice was done, is a real lesson in "grasping the moment".

On the lighter side I found out that Jimmy Stewart, Dick Van Dyke, Steve Allan, Roy and Dale Rogers, Nelson Eddy, Greer Garson, Edgar Bergman, were or are all Presbyterians. A good book, easy to read and enlightening on the Christian mission of the Presbyterian Church USA throughout the world.

Lorna Teare

Sessions, Colleges, Presbyteries, Synods and agencies of The Presbyterian Church in Canada ...

Do you have an exciting project, idea or dream to enhance or further the teaching and educational ministry of the Church?

If so, you may qualify for a grant from the
Ewart Endowment for Theological Education

For more information and application forms, contact the Assembly Office at 50 Wynford Drive, North York, Ontario M3C 1J7, or call 1-800-619-7301 or 441-1111, or E-mail: thamilto@presbyterian.ca

IN MEMORIAM

Ruth Alexandra Yeandle
born June 26, 1902
died November 25, 1998

Between these two dates lies a life dedicated to the service of her Lord Jesus Christ. Ruth Yeandle, an only child of a CPR engineer, grew up in Penticton. From her observations of many Chinese immigrant railway workers, she decided she wanted to go to China as a missionary. After training as a nurse at Vancouver General Hospital, she was told by her father that he would not allow her, his only child, to go to China. Her plans thwarted, she prayed for a way to bring the gospel to Chinese people. In the fall of 1931, Dr. David A. Smith, Superintendent of Missions, heard about Ruth's prayers and told her about an opening for a deaconess at the Chinese Presbyterian Mission in Vancouver. Her salary would be paid by the Women's Missionary Society.

For the next 37 years, Ruth faithfully brought the gospel to children in the nursery, students in the Sunday School, and adults in the congregation. Using her own money, she purchased a van which she used as a school bus to drive her students to the church nursery. Her ministry extended beyond the walls of the nursery. Opening her home to her students and parents of the students, she led Bible study classes to all age groups: Mission Band, Explorers, Tabitha (young teen girls), Women's Missionary, and seniors. She gave classes in English as a second language in the days before ESL was available in schools.

After her retirement in 1968, she continued her weekly Bible studies at the homes of Mrs. McClintock and Mrs. Irene Bleackley. Ruth Yeandle's legacy of a Spirit-filled life lives on in the grandchildren and yes, great-grandchildren of her nursery graduates.

Both the English-language WMS and Chinese-language WMS groups at Chinese Presbyterian Church were initiated by Ruth Yeandle.

Miss Yeandle was a resident in nursing homes for the last 10 years of her life. Two people who looked after her as their own family were Mrs. Mary Fisher, who trained with Ruth, and Mr. Tennyson Wong, who says, "She was like a mother to me."

Eulogy given December 3, 1998 by Mrs. Sue Yuen

Note: Over a hundred people, a majority of them former and present members and adherents from the Chinese Presbyterian Church, attended this memorial service. The service reminded one of a reunion rather than a memorial service.

We are gathered here to give thanks to our Lord for the life and work of Miss Yeandle. After Miss Yeandle retired, Adena, my daughter who just sang, and I visited her. She served her famous Scottish scones with lemon butter. Adena had never had lemon butter before and she really liked it. Miss Yeandle gave her a little container of lemon butter to take home. Do you know: that lemon butter went bad. Why? Because Adena was hoarding it; it was so special that she didn't want to eat it all up, so she ate half and saved the other half. It was a special gift and Miss Yeandle knew how to make a child feel special!

I'd like to share three conversations I had with Miss Yeandle. One day, I asked her, "When you were young, what were your dreams? What did you want to do when you grew up?" Miss Yeandle said, "My dearest wish was always to go to China-I was a trained nurse, I was healthy and sin-

Ruth Yeandle

gle, and I felt I could do a lot in China. Well-God had an even better plan-I didn't get to China-instead, he made me a missionary to the Chinese in Vancouver." We are her legacy.

A second conversation I had with Miss Yeandle was about raising children. One day, I asked her, "What's the best way to raise children? Miss Yeandle said, "The Chinese, like a lot of other parents, want the best for their children. They put a big emphasis on education. They work very hard to give their children a good education-they take them to music lessons, swimming lessons, Chinese language classes, and many other types of activities. They don't put the same emphasis or importance to teaching their children about God. I think the spiritual development is the most important part of raising children." WE are her legacy. Miss Yeandle had so many spiritual children.

Another day I was talking to Miss Yeandle. I said, "Miss Yeandle, you are so wonderful, you have sacrificed so much of your life, so many years, to working in the Chinese Presbyterian Church." Right away, she corrected me, "Susie, you are wrong. I didn't make a sacrifice. God made the sacrifice for me-He gave His son Jesus to die for me. It is a privilege for me to serve Him. I am thankful to follow Him and to be His servant." WE are her legacy. Praise God.

I'm certain you will agree that Miss Yeandle is being welcomed into Heaven with the words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant!"

"I"-Witness

Today on the way to church, my friend and I started talking about"luck". She said how lucky she was and then she said "No, it isn't luck. No Christian depends on luck. It is God's doing."

We discussed the idea of luck for a while, and then we started talking about coincidences. So she told me this little story. Recently, she had a knock on her door, and when she went to the door, one of her neighbours was there. "Did you know that the left rear tyre of your car is flat?"

She thanked him and since the tyre was really flat, she wondered how she would get it to somewhere where she could have the tyre repaired. It was over the holidays so most places were closed.

As she pondered the difficulty another knock came on the door, and this time it was a different neighbour. He said he had a gadget that would pump up the tyre and put enough air in it that she could get to the gas station some blocks away. This was done, but then still another neighbour came along, and offered to change the tyre for her.

We talked about the coincidence of the three neighbours coming to offer her help. And then she said, "You know it really was not a coincidence. It was God who did this for me."

We so easily attribute things to either luck or to coincidence that really come from God.

Kay Berry, Richmond, B.C

***_Mission in Action_ replaces "Dear Friends". Addresses of personnel may be found in the Nov/Dec issue or obtained from the Life & Mission Agency.**

Sean and Lezlie Allison
Cameroon

June 1998–There is an Arabic expression "ma sha' allah" which means "What God wills". Over the past few months the big question for us has been, "With which language group should we work?". With almost 270 languages spoken here in Cameroon, this has not been an easy question to answer. We were asked to consider three language groups in three different regions of the country: the coast, the mountains and the Sahel. We visited each of these places, considered the needs, and prayed a bunch. As beautiful as the coast and mountains are, we felt a real call to work with the Kotoko people.

The Kotoko live in the far north of Cameroon in a semi-desert area called the Sahel, just south of the Sahara, and spread into neighboring Nigeria and Chad. The Kotoko practise both Islam and traditional African religion.

When we visited this area in March, we spoke with the Sultans (chiefs) of a few major Kotoko villages. Each one was very interested in having his language developed into a written form and expressed a desire to have us come and work there.

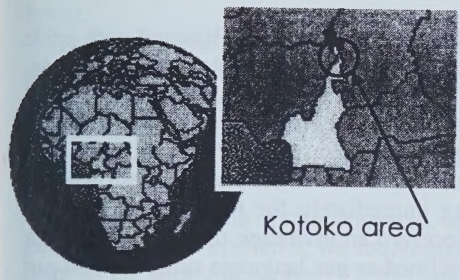
Once we felt that the Lord was directing us to work with the Kotoko, it still wasn't easy to say 'Yes, Lord, Yes, To your will and to Your Way'. As great as the need is, the Kotoko people live in a harsh environment with temperatures reaching 120°F (49°C), little rain and vegetation for most of the year, lots of sand dust at certain times of the year, etc.

I've been amazed and encouraged, though, with how many Scripture verses speak about God's provision in hard places... "The Lord will guide you always. He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose water never fails" (Isaiah 59:11).

We are now working on the logistics of moving our family up north (a four-five-day drive from Yaoundé, where we live now). Many have given generously toward our set-up fund, and we are very thankful. To set up a home, even if we don't build, is going to involve greater expenses than first expected...shipping costs from Yaoundé to the far north, solar panels and batteries for power, radio for communication, swimming pool (just kidding)....

We hope to relocate to the Kotoko area in September. In the meantime we will begin learning Chadian Arabic. This is the trade language spoken where we will be, as there is a number of Arabs who live in the area as well.

We will also continue working on a computerized database to help in organizing



language data which should be useful to Wycliffe teams working in the initial stages of linguistic analysis in Africa.

Sean joined this project in January, and I have come alongside the past few months. Three afternoons a week I work on this project while Sean takes care of the boys. This gives each of us an appreciated break in the routine. Sean gets some good "Dad time" to play with Josiah and Nathanael, and I can get back into linguistics a bit.

Josiah is two and a half now and full of gusto. He loves to sing and will make up any words he's not sure of. One of his favorites is "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" (yes, it's warm here too, but he just really likes Christmas songs). "Mercy mild" is replaced by "mushy miles" in his version of the song.

Nathaniel is a sweet little guy who is just waiting for an occasion to laugh. He spends a good part of the day crawling around behind his big brother and giving him lots of opportunities to learn to share toys.

Love in our Lord,

Lezlie, Sean, Josiah & Nathanael

Jennifer Melanson
El Salvador

May 1998–In the last couple of months I've continued to be involved in the health-environmental project, doing everything from creating educational materials, to interviews and workshops. I now enjoy a sound mix of office and community work. A lot of my time was spent creating flip charts for workshops and trainings on composting toilets and improved stoves, which will be used by IMU's agronomist.

I also spent a good amount of time completing community needs assessments/profiles of the five repopulated communities where IMU has been present for the last few years, interviewing community members about their organizational structure, gender relations, etc. I did more interviews as well with about 100 families to follow up on the impacts of last year's components of the project.

Just recently I've begun the planning of a video which I'll be working on until I leave. It's to be an educational video documenting the project as local development with a gender focus. I've been given the freedom to plan and film, and I'll also be receiving financial assistance from IMU to have it professionally edited. It'll be a challenge, since I've never worked with film before.

The medical system is in crisis as all public and some private doctors have been on strike for about two weeks now, demanding higher wages and adequate equipment and medicines. Of course the government says there isn't money for wage increases, and have launched a propaganda campaign against the strike.

There is a lot of support for the doctors, but the strike makes getting sick quite inconvenient. Apparently it is the first time that the medical professionals have been on strike, and in the May Day march, they led the workers in what was the biggest march in the last couple of years.

I took part, but because I was behind the women's movement speakers it felt more like a grandiose feminist demonstration. Pre-election hype about possible candidates and party platforms makes the news

daily, even though the elections are still ten months away.

I am continually awed by the FMLN's attempt to be participatory and inclusive. They have begun organizing working tables in every municipality across the country to generate critiques and suggestions on their recently made public platform. I guess that kind of participation is possible in such a small country.

In the next two months my work will continue in the communities, as I'm responsible for the composting and waste management components. With the support and direction of ecological committees we are in the process of elaborating demonstration composters to be used in conjunction with the community kitchens. I'll be creating educational materials and giving workshops on the use and maintenance of the composters, training the members of the committees to give workshops to the rest of their communities. I'm also hoping to do some popular education workshops around waste management and composters with all of the schools, if time is on my side.

I am generally doing very well, healthy and busy, trying to take advantage of my remaining time here. I'm still teaching English, which continues to be a joyful part of my day.

All the best,
Jennifer

Bob & Linda King
India

May 1998–Last week we attended graduation for those students with whom we started, in Indore in July '97. All 34 passed their exams and are very happy. It was most gratifying to be there for the finish. Bob gave the opening prayer for the graduation ceremonies. I just beamed with pride as all my students accepted their diplomas.

We attended the student/staff final farewell dinner function the previous night, and got caught up on student and staff activities. One of the staff–Rakesh is leaving immediately for Jobat to get married. Received an invitation to the wedding, but declined as our language skills are still not up to going out in public without an interpreter.

We are having a very hot spell of weather here in this area, and when talking to a local the other day he mentioned 'El Nino', so that is suspect even in Indian adverse weather conditions. Neither of us can recall this kind of heat from our stay here last year.

We have nearly completed the course outline for the midwifery students, here in Jobat. Now they will be finishing their ward experiences and taking annual leave. Our work has slowed considerably, mainly because of the heat. We drink a lot more water, even add salt to all our food, and try to find the rooms with the coolers. Fortunately this area so far has a good supply of water.

We read in the newspaper that many areas are suffering from water shortages, and indeed when we were in Indore we noticed this, everyone complaining about lack of water, and evidence of water having to be brought in by tanker trucks.

One of the lessons we learn from a foreign experience is just what blessings we do take for granted day after day. Maybe one of the messages we are to send home is simply that. Count your blessings, and if you don't know them, look around at others less fortunate.

Today was soup kitchen day. There is a local kitchen right at the bottom of the path, where hungry people gather for a meal. Not much, maybe just some rice and roti (bread) but more than they have at

home.

As cheap as the food is here it is expensive for someone with little money. We are reminded daily to share what we have; we cannot take out of this world anything we have, only what we give away will be counted.

Last week a bundle of mail appeared, oh goody! When we opened it, we found mail from as far back as October '97. Yes, and some Christmas cards too. In May. It might have been to help us think cool, but I don't really think so.

Bob's work on the pharmacy project is nearing completion. It is looking very good. The hospital was lucky in their choice of carpenter and other workers. Our need now is for pharmacy personnel. !!!Late Breaking News Flash!!! We have a Pharmacist in training starting shortly. One of our secretarial jobs is writing letters to find such individuals: doctors, pharmacists and others.

Another project just getting started–a six foot fence around a local school.

This week we travelled to a new area for us–Ratlam, about five hours away, and only 150 km. We had received, second hand, an invitation to a wedding. We were graciously received by both the bride and groom's families–they both live on the mission hospital/school/church compound. The wedding was there in a beautiful church, and the reception in the grounds. Got more of an idea about families, and much like any small community (of Christians), a lot of people are interrelated.

The pharmacy project is almost complete, just stock to be purchased and bookkeeping to set up. The new project of building a boundary wall around the Christian school still has not begun, definitely operating on Indian contractor schedule, which means when I have time and there are no weddings or festivals to attend. The inability to talk to the folks certainly comes to the fore when you are on your own with no interpreter, and it is imperative that they understand; remember God is teaching me patience; I wish He would hurry up.

As we are all aware India has become a nuclear power now, and it was a little unnerving, especially when we heard our Canadian government representative was called home. The attitude of the people of India is one of exultation; they now feel they can protect themselves if need be from their enemy neighbors. Once again a time to be so very thankful that we as Canadians are a peace-loving nation, and our neighbor to the south is our friend.

Many times as we study God's word and receive instruction, it seems almost impossible at times to relate it to today's world. God is in control, and He will not burden us with more than we can stand. As we lead morning devotions when it is our turn, the people know that only by faith can we stand up there and share the salvation message and believe it.

A couple of weeks ago we went to Indore to shop for the pharmacy project, and were able also to attend the graduation of Linda's first students. We were also invited to come back to the Indore Mission Hospital and hold the morning devotions there. Many times in mission work you wonder "are we doing His will and is it helping?" Well praise the Lord we were able to witness that our efforts last year really did mean something to the staff and students of Indore Mission Hospital.

Our God wants all of us to be confident that in whatever venue He puts us, he will make His message effective, and so sought after by mankind. That for me is great news, and I pray for each of you also.

We have been spending a lot of very quiet hours on the porch or inside under a fan, due to the blistering heat. This

newsletter is being typed in A/C comfort of the hospital Sonography room. The temperature right this moment is 44+, and I don't want to consider what the plus really is.

Remember God Loves You and so do we.

Love from India,
Bob & Linda

Lessard-Clouston
Japan

November 1998-Greetings from Japan! Caleb is now an active, walking 10-month-old who likes to get into everything and keep us on our toes. Please pray for Caleb's growth and development.

Since April, Joel has been attending our church's kindergarten and adjusting to school life. He has a wonderful teacher and has adapted very well, despite many challenges, and is learning Japanese and making friends. Joel's Japanese is a great help, because when we don't know a word we ask him and often he can help. Please pray for Joel's socialization, especially as he relates to other kids and continues to develop friendships.

In the spring a new chaplain joined the School of Economics and he relates well to students and faculty. Thank God with us for Rev. Funaki, and pray that God will guide him as he oversees the Christian activities in Economics.

One way I help is by coordinating a weekly English chapel on Thursdays. I speak most of the time but Wendy comes a couple times each term. Praise God with us for how receptively these English chapels are received, and pray for students to continue to come and learn from these opportunities for Bible teaching and worship.

With Wendy being a kindergarten mother it is very time consuming, as I do all the tasks required (meetings, handicrafts, etc.). School notices give me Japanese language practice, and help me get to know other mothers as I ask for help. My weekly English discussion group has been meeting again since October and it is going well. Please pray that I will set priorities wisely as I try to balance family needs, activities at the university, and relationships in the community.

We continue to thank God for our English Bible Study. Though fewer church members now attend faithfully, the group has grown (usually 10-12 members) and since October has become quite international, with the addition of several exchange students from Canada, Korea and Indonesia, plus one foreign student from China. May each person come to know Jesus more intimately through our Bible studies so that we might serve and honour Him faithfully.

We both find life here a struggle, with many ups and downs. Having only limited Japanese is difficult. We find we are often lonely and discouraged, though we press on day by day. Please pray that God will encourage us with His presence and guide us in all of our activities.

In 1999 we plan to be home in Toronto on assignment from July through December, for Michael to have time to work on his dissertation and for us to visit churches and share with more in person.

We are grateful for your prayers.
Michael & Wendy

Barsoum
Cyprus

Please join with us in offering the Lord praise and thanksgiving for His work that is being accomplished in our lives and in the ministry of SAT-7 in the Middle East.

Sherien has started the first year in

OVERSEAS STAFF BIRTHDAYS

April
1- Joel Lessard-Clouston, Japan
9- Cathy McMullen, India
15- Sherien Barsoum, Cyprus
20- Jillian Brown, Malawi
22- Linda Inglis, Malawi

May
1- Jake Vanderzweerde, India
5- Yasmani Samuel Villalonga, Nicaragua
11- Lillian Sparling, Taiwan
15- Robert Young, Malawi
19- Luke Inglis, Malawi
23- Bruce Hickling, Malawi
26- Pauline Brown, India
27- David Onuoha, Nigeria

Journalism at Ryerson University in Toronto. She is adjusting to living on her own in Canada, and getting used to a two-hour daily commute from Richmond Hill. Pray for wisdom as she learns to manage her new lifestyle and heavy daily schedule.

Philip has started Grade 11 at Black Forest Academy in Germany. Praise God for the Christian environment at both the school and at the dorm where he is staying. Pray for his adjustment and that new friends at BFA will be an encouragement and support to his spiritual growth.

Christopher is back at the International school in grade four, and to his Saturday soccer. Pray as he continues to adjust to the absence of his brother and sister. Please include Dad and Mom in this prayer request as well. Mona and Makram are finding it hard too, with 2/3 of their kids not around. Pray that all of us will be able to cope with this new change in our lives.

Mona continues to help at SAT-7 in Audience Relations and telephone counseling. Praise God that her other ministry among the youth is growing and bearing fruit. Pray for wisdom and resources as many teenagers from different nationalities and religious backgrounds come to the weekly youth meeting.

More of Makram's time this year will be devoted to setting up/staffing the Audience Relations and Follow-up Department of SAT-7 headquarters. Praise God for potential staff being identified. Pray for Makram and two of his staff who have been suffering from back pain for some time.

SAT-7 Television Broadcasts continue to be discovered by new viewers of all backgrounds in the ME who write/phone to share their excitement and repeat the popular request to increase the broadcast hours. Praise God that Friday and Sunday transmissions now total nine hours per week. Pray for the current plans for further increase of the hours and the days of the transmission. Praise God for all who are involved in this work.

Let us stay in touch at His throne.

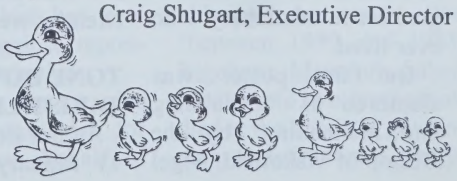
Makram, Mona, Sherien, Philip & Christopher

P. S. from Interserve:

Dear faithful partners,

We continue to rejoice in the way God sustains the incredibly strategic ministry of SAT-7. Remember your prayers are potentially influencing close to 400 million lives throughout the Middle East. We are so grateful for the Barsoum family, and your role in keeping them deployed in this exciting ministry.

Craig Shugart, Executive Director



NEWS

JESUS WORLD'S 'GREATEST REVOLUTIONARY'

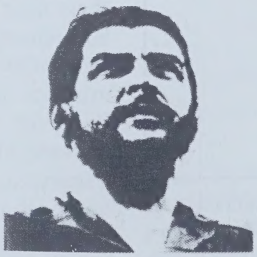
- Cedric Pulford, London, 7 January (ENI)--A poster launched in Britain to promote church attendance at Easter has provoked controversy by showing Jesus Christ looking like the Latin American Marxist revolutionary Che Guevara.

The poster uses an image similar to the famous red and black portrait of Guevara that sold in millions around the world in the 60s and 70s. The tilt of the head, the flowing hair, the visionary eyes, the high-contrast image are all the same. But Guevara's trademark beret has been replaced by a crown of thorns. The caption reads: "Meek, mild. As if. Discover the real Jesus. Church. April 4."

Tom Ambrose, of the Churches Advertising Network, which produced the poster, and which has representation from among the mainstream Christian denominations, told ENI: "We want to get across the idea that Jesus Christ was the greatest revolutionary who ever lived."

But the poster was slammed as "trivialising and misleading" by the Bishop of Wakefield, Nigel McCulloch, spokesman for the Church of England to broadcasting and the media. He told ENI: "Although the poster is clearly well intentioned, it is biblically ill founded. Jesus was a revolutionary, but he made clear that he was not a political and violent revolutionary."

Kieran Conry, spokesman of the Roman Catholic Church of England and Wales, told ENI: "The image of a revolutionary is fair enough in principle, but Jesus did not lead a militaristic revolution."



Che Guevara

Che Guevara, the hero of a generation of radical students, was an Argentine-born doctor who became a key supporter of the Cuban revolution of Fidel Castro.

The poster has received strong support from Major Bruce Tulloch of the Salvation Army who says, "The image excites interest. It's not only teens and twenties we want to reach."

TONE DOWN CAPITALIST LIFESTYLE

- Andrei Zolotov, Moscow, 11 January (ENI)--In an unusually candid report, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Alexei II, has criticised the behaviour of some of his own priests in post-communist Russia who are "imitating the lifestyle of New Russians" by driving expensive cars and parading their mobile telephones in front of their poverty-stricken parishioners.

The patriarch delivered his warning to clergy in his report to the Moscow diocese's annual meeting on 23 December.

The report, which came at the end of a year in which the church received media attention for its involvement in several major controversies, called for greater openness in the church which, the patriarch said, should speak "sincerely and truthfully" about "all problems" affecting it.

CANAAN BANANA FACES JAIL

-Noel Bruyns, East London, South Africa, 18 January (ENI)--Canaan Banana, 62-year-old Methodist minister and former president of Zimbabwe, was sentenced in the High Court in Harare today to 10 years imprisonment for 11 counts of homosexual rape and indecent assault.

But the judge suspended nine years of the prison term because of Banana's

age and poor health, and granted his lawyers leave to appeal against the sentence.

The sexual activities of Zimbabwe's first post-independence president (from 1980 to 1987) first came to light in 1996 during the murder trial of Jefta Dube, his former aide-de-camp. Dube, who is serving a 10-year gaol sentence, murdered a former police constable who, Dube said, had taunted him about being "Banana's wife". Dozens of other male students, soccer players and soldiers later joined Dube in accusing Banana of sexual abuse and harassment in his official residence as president, State House in Harare.

RUSSIA'S RELIGIONS TO FORM COUNCIL

- Andrei Zolotov, Moscow, 20 January (ENI)--Officials of Russia's traditional religions - Orthodox Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Buddhism- have announced that they will form a permanent consultative body, the Interfaith Council of Russia.

At least for the immediate future, the council will not include Russia's other Christian and minority religious communities, though organisers say the council will eventually be more inclusive. Russia has many non-Orthodox religious groups, including Catholics and many Protestant churches, which have grown substantially since the end of communism.

The new organisation will foster dialogue and cooperation among Russia's principal religions whose ties "date back to the Soviet time". The council will discuss the "current problems of Russian society" and give witness to shared values "to the authorities and the people".

"It is planned that in the future the council will be open to other religious associations traditionally present in Russia," the Orthodox statement said.

RIGOBERTA MENCHU REJECTS CLAIM

Mexico, 25 January (ENI)--Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Rigoberta Menchu Tum and a foundation which she set up have mounted a staunch defence following claims that she fabricated or exaggerated parts of an autobiographical account of her family's struggle against exploitation.

Menchu, an indigenous Guatemalan, achieved world-wide fame after the publication, in 1983, of her book, *I, Rigoberta Menchu,* which described her people's fight against repression and exploitation.

In 1992 she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts on behalf of indigenous people world-wide. Then aged 33, she was the youngest person ever to receive the award.

She has been a leading campaigner for peace in Guatemala, and in 1994, she took part in an "Ecumenical Encounter" in Oslo, bringing together representatives from a wide spectrum of Guatemala's civil society, as well as delegates from the military and the guerrillas.

Late last year, a United States researcher, David Stoll, published a book casting doubt on many of the events described in *I, Rigoberta Menchu*, including claims that her family was engaged in a struggle against wealthy landowners, that she watched one brother starve to death and another being burnt to death by the Guatemalan security forces, and that she had received no formal education.

A New York Times reporter subsequently conducted interviews in Guatemala which, he claimed, indicated that many of the principal episodes related by Menchu had been either fabricated or seriously exaggerated, although he stated that "between 1979 and 1983, Rigoberta Menchu's father, mother and two brothers all died at the hands of government security forces, every-

one here acknowledges".

In a statement released last week, the Rigoberta Menchu Tum Foundation - which has offices in Guatemala, Mexico and the US and was set up in 1993 by Menchu using the grant from her Nobel Peace Prize - praised her "personality, moral stature and leadership" which, it said, "amply belie the image that this slanderous publication, and the campaign of those who have echoed it, now seek to transmit".

BAPTIST OFFICIAL CONDEMNS RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY

Washington DC, 27 January (ENI)--Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) has condemned religious "bigotry" worldwide, following the murder on 23 January of Australian Baptist missionary Graham Staines and his two sons in the Indian state of Orissa. Graham Staines, aged 58, and his sons, Philip, aged 10, and eight-year-old Timothy, were burned to death when the vehicle in which they were sleeping was doused with petrol and set alight, allegedly by dozens of members of a Hindu fundamentalist group, Bajrang Dal. The vehicle was parked outside a small, makeshift church in the village of Manoharpur, about 1000 kilometres southeast of New Delhi.

Staines had been working with leprosy patients in India for 34 years and was the secretary of the Evangelical Missionary Society (EMS). The murders are the latest incident in a recent series of attacks against Christians in India.

BRITISH ARCHBISHOP TO CHALLENGE POLICE

- Cedric Pulford, London, 27 January (ENI)--One of the most senior figures in Britain's Roman Catholic hierarchy, John Aloysius Ward, the Archbishop of Cardiff, was arrested on January 26 over claims that he sexually abused a young girl more than 30 years ago.

Archbishop Ward, aged 70, who has strenuously denied allegations of wrong-doing and has received the full support of the hierarchy of his church, was not charged and was released on police bail until 9 March. (Police bail is a way of ensuring that those under investigation remain available. It implies that inquiries are continuing, although charges do not always follow.)

In a statement released by a spokesman, the archbishop said: "I vigorously deny these allegations against me. The truth will out, it will set us free. Those who know me will have no problems accepting that."

The abuse claims appeared in the *News of the World*, a Sunday tabloid newspaper which frequently carries sensationalised reports of the private lives of prominent people. The alleged victim, so far unidentified, is now in her forties and living in Ireland. She claims that in the early 1960s, at the age of seven, she was abused by Ward, then a parish priest in south London.

STRATEGY TO WIN DEBT FORGIVENESS

-Paul Jeffrey, Tegucigalpa, 28 January (ENI)--The struggle to cancel the foreign debt of Latin America's poorest countries took a step forward this week as church leaders and political activists from throughout the Americas and beyond met in Honduras to plan a common strategy for their struggle against northern banks and international financial institutions.

In a three-day conference starting on 25 January and sponsored by the Jubilee 2000 movement, more than 100 participants from 17 Latin American countries discussed educational and lobbying strategies to build support for the cancellation

of a big portion of foreign debt at the beginning of the new millennium.

The movement takes its name from the Jubilee year, a moment when outstanding debts are supposed to be forgiven, according to the Torah, the priestly code in the first five books of the Bible said to have been given to Moses by God.

According to World Bank estimates, the foreign debt of Latin American countries will reach US$706 billion this year. Most of the original loans were incurred by military regimes in the 1970s, and the interest has been building ever since, despite payments that consume a big share of national resources.

REFORMED INTERNATIONAL HANDBOOK

- Edmund Doogue Geneva, 29 January (ENI)--Three years ago, when Jean-Jacques Bauswein and Lukas Vischer, Protestant theologians based in the Geneva region, began compiling a handbook of Reformed churches worldwide, they expected the final list would include "between 450 and 500 churches".

The final product - a 740-page handbook - lists 746 churches in 149 countries. For Korea alone 99 Reformed churches are listed. As *The Reformed Family Worldwide: A Survey of Reformed Churches, Theological Schools, and International Organisations* was published this month, even the two editors expressed surprise at what Bauswein described as "the scope, diversity, disunity and potentials of the Reformed family world-wide". "I was very surprised by the number," Vischer, professor emeritus of ecumenical theology at the Evangelical Reformed Theological Faculty of Berne, told ENI. "Even mutual knowledge between Reformed churches is minimal. We discovered some countries where the main Reformed or Presbyterian churches have no knowledge of some other Reformed churches in their own country."

The handbook, in its length and detail, is an impressive work. Bauswein, former director of the John Knox International Reformed Centre in Geneva and a member of ENI's advisory board, said it would prove most useful, especially to church leaders, church organisations and mission agencies within the "Reformed family". It would also be invaluable, he said, to people in inter-confessional dialogue and researchers studying religion.

Forward in Faith

In 1998, the WMS endowment investments became a greater concern in my life. It was not a good year for many people with their investments. Nevertheless, the Society has had very good years and now we need to cope with a bad year. (This does not touch each member's contributions as they are completely used every year for the work of WMS.) It means that this year the Society has less to give to the special projects funded from the endowment funds.

Investments remind me of people. Our own lives can be seen like financial investments. All of us face great times of joy and happiness or times of sadness and sorrow. Nothing is sure in this world if we depend on ourselves.

The only sure things in our lives can be our faith in God. This gives us security and hope in the future. From His word we are reminded of these words taken from 1 Corinthians 1:9 NIV: *God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.*

1998 Presbyterial Givings $811,085
1998 (Undesignated) Legacies $189,089

Irene Nesbitt, Treasurer

IN THE SOCIETY

SYNODICAL

Quebec and Eastern Ontario held their fall retreat at Gracefield with the theme *Perception vs Reality*. Thirty-five women were housed in the White Pine Lodge. Friday evening was spent in "Fun and Fellowship" provided by the Perth WMS.

Saturday morning, Brockville Presbyterial supplied artefacts of minute books, bibles, pictures and oil lamps, etc for a look at the past. The women then looked at historical records of a Presbyterial, in groups, and made skits, newspaper headlines and prayers regarding the past.

Montreal Presbyterial was in charge of the Present, with data on the present - information from Council on all aspects of the work, displayed around the room. The women were divided into pairs and given 20 questions to answer.

Glengarry and Ottawa Presbyterials were in charge of "Focus on the Future". Sheila Patterson led in devotions from Isaiah and Ottawa led in group discussions on what are our expectations and dreams for the future of the WMS.

PRESBYTERIAL

Pickering Presbyterial Fall Rally was held October 31 at St. John's, Port Perry. As each person arrived the display of crafts in the room increased. Such "crafty women! The variety and talent was amazing.

About 45 attended. Each person brought a sandwich for lunch and the St. John's group provided dessert and beverages. Following lunch, many women proudly explained and showed their "crafts".

The Laurie Cormack Group of Knox, Oshawa, led in the devotions and following the business, Noreen Cox, of St. Andrew's, Scarborough, introduced her sister-in-law, Esther Powell, President of Council Executive. Esther told us of her trip to India and showed slides.

Huron Perth Presbyterial held two special events during the summer and fall of 1998. In **Avonton** Church, a rally was enjoyed by 88 members representing 15 churches. Each member brought a fresh flower and several lovely bouquets were arranged. Plants were donated and a sale was held.

Audrey Stovel, a gardener, gave an interesting presentation of herbs and spices with examples and scriptural references.

Guest speakers, Bob and Margaret Blowes described their time in Barbados, the schools, food, drug use, and products grown there.

Members from Cromarty presented a skit, "St. Peter, look at me".

In **Moncton** Church a conference was attended by 58 members. The theme was *Give thanks for harvest*. Rev. Lynne Nichol welcomed everyone.

Erin Crisfield introduced study books. Literature Secretary Bev Nichol reported on books for display and introduced some new volumes. Supper was followed by a lively hymn sing.

A thanksgiving reading and prayer by Shirley opened the evening program. Special music was enjoyed with Sarah Hood singing two solos.

President Pat White introduced guest speakers Annette Vickers and Barb Hurren. They presented pictures of work done by Presbyterians Aiding Nicaraguans, and described living conditions there.

Thanks to the speakers and courtesy remarks were given by Jean Edmunds.

Evening vespers were conducted by St. Andrew's PCW, Bernice Richards, Lois Kipfer and Jean Isbister.

Barrie Presbyterial Fall Rally was held at Jubilee Church, Stayner, Ontario, assisted

by Sunnidale Corners WMS. Eighty-one attended. Welcome was extended by President Jill Pardy. Greetings were brought by Myrtle Bates, President of Stayner WMS and by their minister, Rev. Tim Purvis. Tim, on the guitar, and accompanied by his wife Lori, played music.

The theme was *Let your light shine...to glorify God*, Matthew 5:16. Devotions were given by St. Andrew's, Barrie. Gladys McKillican gave the meditation. Bible study and discussion were held in small groups.

Trish Heidebrecht from The Book Room spoke about the partnership between the WMS Book Room and the Resource Distribution Centre.

Lunch consisted of "Friendship Soup", sandwiches and cake. Each group was asked to bring a prepared vegetable from which a very tasty soup was made. Also at each place was a handcrafted lighthouse, symbolic of the theme.

Guest speaker Denise Fenez, spoke on mission work at Flora House and Anishinabe Fellowship Centre in Winnipeg. She presented the video "Journey into Wholeness".

The communion service was conducted by Rev. Tim Purvis. Sylvia Van Beest and Judy Robbinson read scripture.

East Toronto Presbyterial Fall Rally was held on Saturday October 24 at Willowdale Church, Willowdale, Ontario. Noreen Marshall and Gladys Anderson opened the rally with a short hymn sing. Welcome was extended by Shirley Mason on behalf of the Presbyterial and Lynne Clegg for Willowdale Church.

Devotions, based on the theme *Partners,* were led by Lynne Clegg. Eva Powrie, Literature Secretary, had a book display.

Charlotte Brown, Executive Secretary of the WMS, showed slides of her recent trip to Malawi. She participated in the 50th Anniversary of the Malawian Women's Guild.

On Saturday October 17, **Essex Kent** Presbyterial hosted a tri-presbyterial enrichment day at New St. Andrew's, former Dover Township. Paris and London Presbyterials were guests. President of Essex Kent, Ruth Smith welcomed guests and New St. Andrew's president Marie Parry also extended a welcome.

The theme was *Uprooted Peoples, Refugees and Immigrants.* With the assistance of Erin Crisfield, Area Staff, and persons from Paris and London presbyterials, a study worship was held with large circle prayers, skits and discussion in groups. The service was prepared by Frances Nugent, Erin and Gloria Wasacase.

Following a potluck lunch and singalong, guest Karen Plater of PWS&D, spoke about uprooted people in third world countries. Karen was presented with the money left after expenses for PWS.

Our second guest Rev. Wm. Ball of St. James Church, Chatham, spoke about Chernobyl and the children brought to North America to live with host families. William and his wife Christine have hosted the same young boy for two years.

Come to the Mission Fair!

Over 70 people attended the first of what is hoped to be the annual Mission Fair, presented by Superior Presbyterial on Sunday November 1 from 4-7 p.m. in Lakeview Church Hall, Thunder Bay. The hall was decorated with streamers and balloons. The visitors were welcomed by President Brenda Patterson.

Rev. Jim Patterson of First Church, acted as Master of Ceremonies and introduced three new videos on mission from the PCC Nationall Office.

Around the hall were various bulletin displays. Three young people who had

spent a week in August in Cuba painting a mission church - Heather Linklater, Kristy Garton and Jeff Rawana - displayed the pictures and souvenirs of their trips.

George Tombri spoke about his homeland, Nigeria, from which he is a refugee. Brenda and Jim were resource people for Guatemala.

Angela George and Kaitlin Kopenanski made and sold popcorn to add to the "Fair" atmosphere.

Ruth George looked after the children's Activity Centre, using the current Learning/Sharing Project.

An excellent display from The Book Room, looked after by Donna Johnston, included mission related books, children's books and Bridgehead products.

To put everyone in a happy mood, two clowns, Rev. Milton and Janet Fraser of Calvin Church, entertained with a skit "What is Mission?"

Mr. Mithran of India, in Canada as a guest of PWS&D, showed slides and talked about "Roofs for the Roofless".

The kitchen was looked after by Gladys. "Toonie" Sausages were sold for supper and served with veggies and dips, chips and cake. The money earned was donated to the "School in the Dump - Guatemala."

ANNIVERSARY

In October, the **Dr. Margaret O'Hara** WMS of **Renfrew** Church celebrated its 55th anniversary.

Guest speaker was Jane Hilliard, a pharmacist who spent two weeks in Ecuador as part of a thirteen-person team with Medical Ministries International. Doctors, surgeons, nurses and pharmacists conducted clinics. Two hundred patients were seen daily and 500 prescriptions filled. The drugs, bandages, etc. are donated by North American companies.

Our first president Frances Kirkham Scott Lockwood was given an Honorary Membership, having been a charter member and serving in all offices several times.

President Joan Hilliard and Secretary Isabel Wallace recalled Frances' accomplishments. Presbyterial President Isabel Scobie made the presentation along with thanks for such fine service.

Guests were present from Arnprior, Cobden and Lochwinnoch WMS groups.

LOCAL

On October 11, Fernando Cascante took part in an intergenerational thanksgiving worship service at Knox Church, Calgary. The congregation was happy to meet Pastor Cascante from our sister church Iglesia El Divino Salvador Calle Blancos, Costa Rica. We hope to find ways for our adults and children to learn about and to share with the people there.

Pictured left to right, are: Bill Ross, Clerk of Session; Ellen Marple; Vi Lawrence, Goforth Group WMS Secretary; Fernando Cascante; and Rev. Murdo Marple, minister of Knox, Calgary.

The English speaking WMS of **Vancouver Chinese Church** has been using the mission study *Loaves and Fishes* and has tried to practise the spirit of sharing and giving. A cheque was sent recently to Rev. Joe Reed to help in his work among poor children.

The group, in November, also responded to the need in Central American with a special gift to PWS&D of $150 for the

Hurricane Fund.

Some of the group met at the home of Irene Bleakley to fill and pack for shipping, 20 boxes to be sent to "Operation Christmas Child". Through the Samaritan's Purse, these boxes are sent to children in poor countries. A Bible story or message is included in the box with the hope that everyone will know that Jesus loves them.

Pictured left to right are Holly Siu, President, Rebecca Kee, Vice President and Irene Bleakley.

A Tribute to Our Friend Clara

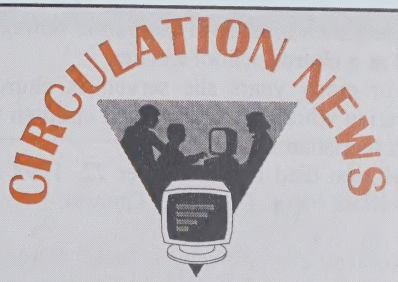
We would like to thank God for the life of our friend Clara. Her faithfulness to God, the church and our WMS left for us an example to follow, "to serve the Lord with gladness". Clara Elsie Robertson died on November 1, 1998 at 88 years of age.

Clara's favourite hymn was "What a friend we have in Jesus", and one of her favourite psalms was "The Lord is my shepherd" which kept her smiling to the end. To be in church one Sunday, and the next to be home with the Lord, is surely God's way of saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant".

All of us will miss Clara very much. We shall carry on in thanksgiving and in memory of her. - the WMS, Knox Church, Bracebridge, ON.

Marion McLean, a member of **St. John's, Cornwall**, and the WMS group there, was indeed a follower of the Church's mission to bring the gospel to all the world.

She was loved by all the children as a



CIRCULATION NEWS

Has your group returned the subscription list? As of January 11 there are still approximately 24 outstanding lists. Also, a number of subscribers on the 000050 listing (our individual subscription list) are still outstanding. We will be following up on these shortly. Hopefully we will soon hear from these groups, as it is costly to send reminders.

In a 1953 copy of the Glad Tidings there is a page on how a group can work together to promote the Glad Tidings. It suggests that every member should be encouraged to read the magazine. Another suggestion is to plan together how the magazine may best be introduced into the homes of the congregation.

Has your group considered how they can promote the magazine within the whole congregation? During their WMS Sunday, one church spoke about the Glad Tidings and had copies of the magazine available for the congregation. This proved very successful with several new subscribers. Remember, promotion of the magazine is not just in the fall, it is throughout the year.

There have been some suggestions for promotion in this column in past issues of Glad Tidings. I hope you will get a chance to re-read them and put some of the ideas to use.

Katherine Allen,
Circulation Manager

kindergarten teacher in the public schools, and as a church school teacher.

For many years she served as church librarian where she encouraged children to read Christian books.

Marion died on November 22, 1998 at Sandfield Place, Cornwall, Ontario.

Two lovely plaques hang in **South Kinloss** Church near Lucknow, Ontario, dedicated in memory of missionaries Dr. Hugh MacMillan and his wife Donalda, and Miss Dorothy Douglas. Hugh and Donalda served in Formosa (Taiwan from 1924-1962.

Dorothy Douglas was appointed by the Women's Missionary Society and served as a teacher and principal of Tamsui Girls School in Formosa from 1926 to 1965.

Friends and relatives gathered for a special church service to honour these devoted servants of God.

AVAILABLE: Photograph of Toronto-Kingston Synodical Annual April 1998, at St. Andrew's Barrie, ON. Size: 8X10. Cost: $10. Contact: Mrs. Myra McFarlane, R. R. 2, Minesing, ON L0L 1Y0

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. Estelle Baker
Alberton, ON

Mrs. Gladys MacFarlane
Almonte, ON

Mrs. Edythe Galbraith
Atwood, ON

Mrs. Wm. (Maude) Smith
Avonton, ON

Clara Elsie Robertson
Knox, Bracebridge, ON

Miss Gladys Martin
St. Andrew's, Brampton, ON

Mrs. Thelma Cardiff
Melville, Brussels, ON

Jean Christiana MacAskill,
Calgary, AB

Mrs. Robena (Ruby) McColl
Mrs. Shirley Page
Knox's Galt, Cambridge, ON

Miss Marion McLean
St. John's, Cornwall, ON

Mrs. Edna Camelford
Mrs. Grace Pond
Knox, Dunnville, ON

Jean Stewart
St. David's, Hamilton, ON

Mrs. Mary Mackey
St. Andrew's, Hanover, ON

Mrs. Margaret Graham
Mrs. Dorothy Rigsley
St. Andrew's, Kingston, ON

Mrs. Dora Brooks
Lucknow, ON

Mrs. Mary Hanna
Gateway, North York, ON
(formerly Faith Community)
(mother of Rev. Patricia Hanna)

Ms. Charlotte Sneyd
Gateway, North York, ON

Miss Florence Bowes
Miss Marjorie Scott
Knox, Ottawa, ON

Mrs. Edna Campbell
St. Andrew's, Memorial,
Port Credit, ON

Mrs. Hilda Lang
Mrs. Violet Massie
St. Paul's, Port Hope, ON

Janet Cluff
First, Seaforth, ON

Mrs. Flora Buie
Jubilee, Stayner, ON

Mrs. Robert (Thelma) Dayman
Knox, St. Catherines, ON

Mrs. Lydia Treanor (age 101)
St. Andrew's, Streetsville, ON

Mrs. Elsie Janes
St. Andrew's, Watford, ON

Miss Mary Gracie
Miss Dorothy Ort
Mrs. Eva Smith
St. Andrew's, Welland, ON

Mrs. Helen Dobson
Weston, Weston, ON

Ruth Yeandle
Chinese Church, Vancouver, BC

Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.
Proverbs 31:8-9

In Guatemala, even though the Mayan people compose almost 80% of the population, they have not had a voice. The majority live in poverty, are illiterate, and experience discrimination. Through the Fraternidad of Mayan Presbyterials, Mayan women in five different languages are speaking out for change. From building latrines, to starting literacy courses, to helping women start small businesses, they are addressing community needs, using community resources. When you support PWS&D your voice joins their voices to proclaim a new vision of hope.

Speak out. Support PWS&D.

Presbyterian World Service & Development
50 Wynford Drive North York, ON M3C 1J7
phone: 416-441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301
e-mail: pwsd@presbyterian.ca web: www.presbyterian.ca

Glad Tidings is printed
on recycled paper

Please report any errors/changes in address.

Glad
Tidings
May /June 1999

Contents

Features

3 **Not to Change**
5 **Visions Beyond '98** ..... *by Ken Stright*
8 **My Heart's Home - a poem** ..... *by Phyllis Dixon*
9 **A Prayer as we Age** ..... *by Kathleen Soucoup*
10 **Wordsearch Puzzles** ..... *by James Phillips*
11 **The Beatitudes - a Wordsearch Puzzle** *by Jim Phillips*
12 **Scissorcut Designs Make Delicate Cards** ..... *by Lini R. Grol*
13 **My Times Are in Thy Hands** .... *by Doris M. Johnson*
14 **Iraq** ..... *by Nuhad Tomeh*
17 **Coming of Age in Central America** ..... *by Joe Reed*
19 **Mornings Bring Rebirth - a poem** ... *by Elizabeth Tayti*
20 **"We'll Meet Again"** ..... *by Maryleah Otto*
22 **Butterfly - a poem** ..... *by Julie Hamilton*
24 **Program**
In Memory of Her - Service of Worship ..... *by Margaret Robertson*
34 **Little Things - a poem** ..... *by Maria Stam*
38 **The St. Paul's 'Towers of Hope' Time Capsule** ..... *by Cynthia Fraser-Palmer*
39 **Weather - a poem** ..... *by Amanda Carter*
47 **Wash Day - a poem** ..... *by Maureen Kowal*
48 **Unseen source - a poem** ..... *by Gwyneth Bell*

Regulars

27 **"I"-Witness**
28 **Books/Resources**
30 **Mission in Action** - *Nelles, Inglis, Jones,Brown*
35 **News**
39 **Seniors on the Go** ..... *by Norma Tomlinson*
39 **Our Readers Write**
39 **Forward in Faith**
40 **In the Society**
46 **Circulation News**
47 **In Remembrance**

Glad Tidings

May/June 1999
Volume 75 No.3

EDITOR:
L. JUNE STEVENSON
CIRCULATION MANAGER:
KATHERINE ALLEN

Published six times a year by the Women's Missionary Society, W.D. of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, 50 Wynford Drive, North York, Ont. M3C 1J7. Tel. 1 (416) 441-1111. Fax 1 (416) 441-2825. Publications mail registration number 0606. ISSN: 00170720.

Member of the Canadian Church Press and the Associated Church Press.

Subscription rate for 1998 $10.00 including G.S.T. per year. Single copies $1.70. W.M.S. members should send their subscriptions through their group Glad Tidings Secretary. Individual subscribers may order direct from Glad Tidings. Please make all money orders and cheques payable at par to Glad Tidings.

GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

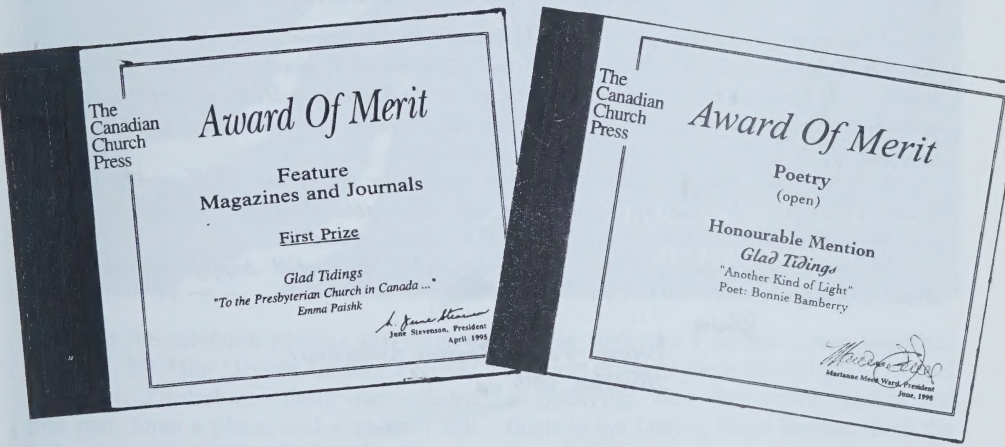
GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

To ~~Change~~ or Not to Change

BACKGROUND

1994: As a result of the five-year plan, Glad Tidings initiates plan to involve individuals and groups at all levels to consider changing the name of our magazine, Glad Tidings.
1996: Mini-study developed by editor. Sent to all local groups with summer mailing.
1997: Mini-study published in January/February Glad Tidings.
1997-1999: Responses sent in.



RESPONSE

The response from individuals, local groups, Presbyterials and Synodicals was extremely good. Putting the mini-study in the Glad Tidings meant that it went directly to local groups, and was used as program material. Over 25 groups, at Synodical, Presbyterial and local levels, responded, most by letter, some by phone. One group sent a three-page response to the study questions.

Most responses were **emphatically, very definite, unanimous, quite satisfied, "no"**, stating such things as:

Our little magazine needs no other label. It says it all! ...in a fine, understandable form.

It is a book of "Glad Tidings".

The title is really neat, great, very appropriate.

Why would they think of change?

It is a first class magazine, gaining awards for excellence, and we are

sure that includes the title. There is no point of changing just for the sake of change.

"Glad Tidings" is all sufficient, super name, explanatory, everything.

"Glad Tidings" is the very best it could be.

It is a book of "Glad Tidings".

It still reflects the glad tidings of good news of Jesus and the Word of God.

I bring you "Glad Tidings" of great joy. What is better than that? I love the title and its contents!

One individual took the time to write a personal letter:

Re: changing the name of Glad Tidings: An anecdote from the past:
In December of 1938 I attended my first WMS meeting as the brand new bride of a brand new minister (Donald B. Mackay). Full of enthusiasm but petrified, since my experience with church meetings previously, had been as a member of the YPS – and American, to boot.

The dear soul who was Glad Tidings secretary asked me if I would like the Glad Tidings – I had no idea what she was talking about! Being too shy to ask her what she meant, I just said I'd think about it.

Fifty-eight years later I'm still a subscriber and still happy to spread the Glad Tidings.

Yours,

Mary Jane Beattie (Mackay)
Halifax, NS

A small minority was open to change. They did, however list quite a few possibilities for new titles, if changed:

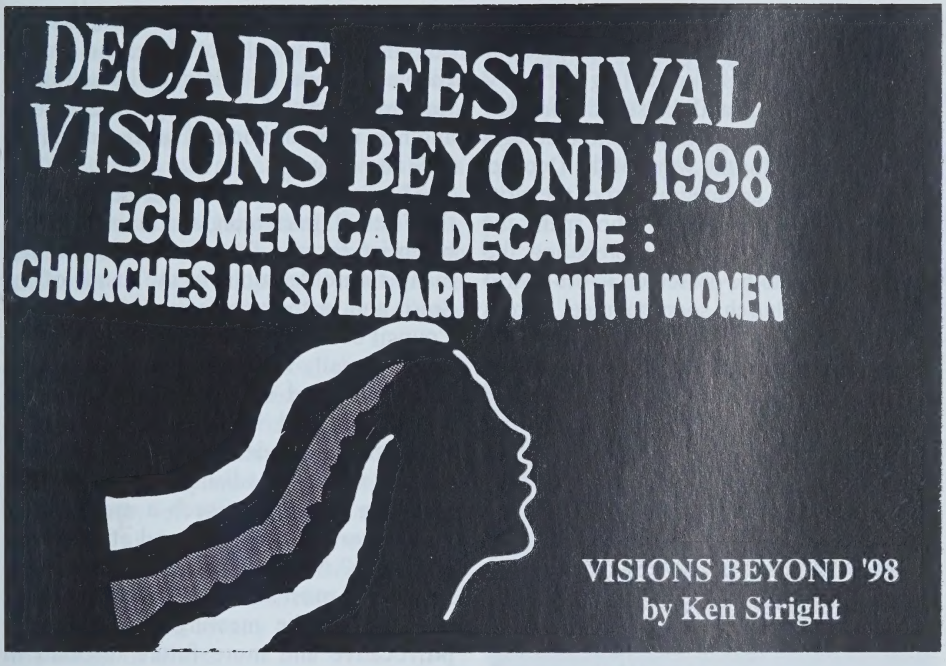
Missionary News	*WMS Activities*	*Joyful News*
Outreach	*Mission Today*	*The Good News (2)*
Mission in Progress	*Forward in Faith*	*Missions*
Mission News	*Mission Reflections*	*Go Forth in Mission*
Mission Works	*Mission news across the World*	

PMS News (Presbyterian Missionary Society)

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL '99:

As part of the five-year plan, the editorial committee initiated a study to encourage groups within the WMS to reflect on the title of the magazine "Glad Tidings" and to consider the possibility of change. The response was overwhelmingly "No".

Therefore, we recommend that the title remain the same, and that there be no further consideration of the title at this time.



VISIONS BEYOND '98
by Ken Stright

Through the selection process for Visions Beyond '98 - the Decade Ending Festival in Harare, Zimbabwe - there was concern that men have a place, and a voice. I felt honoured to join this wonderful gathering of women and men from around the world who find common ground in caring for the church and in seeking to transform the present inequalities that exist throughout the world in relationship between women and men.

I must admit to some nervousness upon entering the Belvedere Teacher's Technical College in Harare, Zimbabwe. Reports tell me there were about 1,100 female and 32 male delegates. My preconceptions before arriving ranged from being excluded in the festival to being singled out (as representative of 'men'). Nothing of the sort happened (of course) and I was warmly welcomed by a table fellowship group who became my family and, later, my friends and confidants.

The first day I unfurled two beautiful banners brought from the Decade Festival in Sackville, New Brunswick, and joined them to the Daring Hope Banner from the Canadian celebration of the Decade in August '98. The same day I had the privilege of carrying forward the water that I brought from Atlantic Canada and, side by side with an elderly sister from Egypt, we placed our water together in the pot, mingling ours with the water of the entire earth to create the Living Water that became the focus of our celebration.

I knew many of the people at the Festival-the great group from Canada over sixty strong, and a wonderful group of friends I had made in Brazil two years earlier. And it was a party in the midst of hard work.

We heard powerful testimony about the results of the Decade and my old friend from the Orthodox Church in Lebanon, Maha, spoke powerfully and passionately

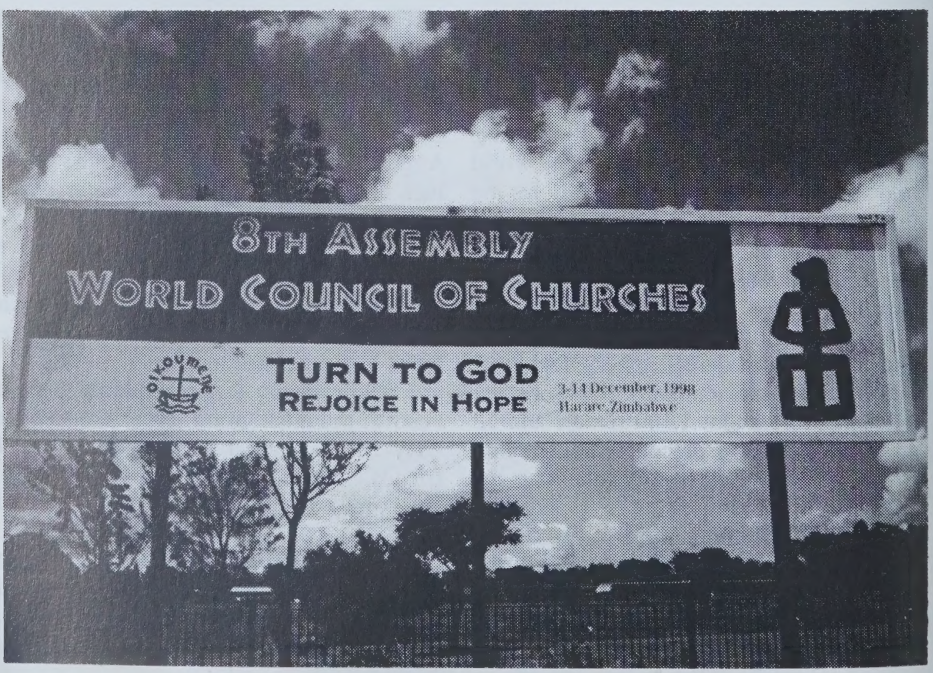
about what was happening in the Middle East. Canadians held a prominent place at the Festival, one speaker telling her story of family violence and the search for healing, another offering biblical and theological affirmation for the work of the Decade, another became an integral part of the writing group (yes, a man!) who spent the Festival behind the scenes preparing the final message to be presented to the World Council of Church soon to meet across town at the University of Zimbabwe.

This was as much a cultural event as it was a conference and the host country and host continent outdid themselves in our welcome and in presenting African life.

The issue huts were a focus for small group discussion, debate and even controversy. There were moments when liberal and traditional views clashed but always a consensus formed in the middle of the maelstrom and progress was made. The final document rejected the traditional way of approaching power - with recommendations and policy and procedure, and instead adopted a style of a loving, living letter, from one part of the body of Christ to another, in an attitude of grace and gratitude and prayer.

This letter was a difficult decision for the Festival. In creating a letter instead of a blueprint for the future, the Festival left many future decisions in the hands of the Spirit and in the possession of the World Council of Churches. This is true risk-taking, especially for a group that has such a personal vested interest in what happens beyond '98 and the official end of the Ecumenical Decade.

Why was a Canadian middle-aged man, who is a minister, at such a meeting and was it worth all the time and effort to get him there? My personal answer is a definite 'yes'. I must admit to being a bit disappointed that the meeting was not more provocative and more future oriented in



line with the Theme Title - Visions Beyond '98. I tend toward conservatism when I can and time and again I felt the urge to move the meeting further along the road toward a truly new millennium.

The time to talk about gender equality is long past in my mind. The time of affirmative action in ensuring the just and equitable placement of women and men in positions of leadership and authority is probably now also past for me in the sense that it must now be a given.

There can be no question, especially in the Church of Jesus Christ, that we are all one, uniquely gifted certainly, but all of us ever so capable of serving the Christ in whatever capacity we are are called. I have no sympathy left for the dinosaurs who talk about the 'place of women' in the church. If there is any question whatsoever about gender involvement, it involves the place of men and their loyalty and love for the things of Christ.

I love the emphasis of my wonderful sisters and brothers from the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan who have declared the next decade to be that of Gender Equality and have put their money where they put their message and have established a position for Gender Equality in the National Church.

Was the trip worth it? Again the answer is 'yes' if for no other reason than the people I met and the friendships established and the contacts made that will be there for years and decades to come.

The real strength of attending these gatherings is that I actually go home to small town Atlantic Canada and tell the story of what the Church of Jesus Christ is doing around the world. It is a wonderful calling and I praise God for such opportunities.

- Rev. Kenneth Stright is minister at St. Andrew's, Pictou, Nova Scotia.

There can be no question, especially in the Church of Jesus Christ, that we are all one, uniquely gifted certainly, but all of us ever so capable of serving the Christ in whatever capacity we are are called.

Glenn Inglis and Ken Stright (right) lending a helping hand.

Photos by Karen Hincke and Margaret Robertson.

My Heart's Home

This is my heart's home
The years of wandering, living, loving
have not diminished the sense
of being at one
with this place I call home.

This old house, nestled in the seaward hill
across the valley and brook from other folk
windswept, rain swept, sun bleached
watching the seasons come and go
once so fully lived in, sometimes so alone.

This is my heart's home
the apple trees are gnarled, the maples old,
new chestnuts, old roses, blackberries run wild;
the barn is gone, the farm has shrunk
but this I know...

Those who own it now
can never own it
as we who grew up here
working, eating, sleeping, playing
spending days in school, or at the beach

Building snow tunnels by the sumach trees
racing the lumber trucks down to the shore
picking blueberries
in the hot summer sun
swinging in the old hammock

Watching the cows graze in the autumn fields
picking potatoes, pulling turnip in the cold
carrying wood
doing lessons by lamplight
round the dining room table.

Washing dishes, picking apples
reading in the orchard
Dad singing to us
playing paper dolls with my sisters
reading, reading, reading.

This is my heart's home
here I began and here I will finally end
so many memories
of those now already gone
but always a part of my life.

Shall I, too, stay
with those I left behind
when I am gone?
this is my heart's home
and here my spirit will stay.

Phyllis M. (Hamilton) Dixon

A Prayer as we Age

by Kathleen G. Soucoup

God in heaven, You know the difficulties we have in loving one another, in understanding one another, so we seek Your help, as did David. You have given us great and precious promises in the Bible and we have learned that we should appropriate those promises. May we continue to search them out and believe in them and trust in You.

Lord, some of us can no longer fly like eagles, or even run without being weary. We make excuses for ourselves, saying our work is done. Sometimes, too, fear keeps us from hearing Your voice.

Lord of love and compassion, forgive us for laziness. We recognize the advancing years, but don't let us make them reclining years. When we want to embark on a flight from life, now that we no longer go out into the world to earn a living, ground us so that we heed Your call for service in a new and different way.

Remind us that age is no excuse for opting out, even though our limbs may challenge us and at times even prevent us from doing Your work in the way we have done in the past. Teach us that now is the time to limber up inwardly. There is still much to do in the creation of Your Kingdom. Give us the courage to undertake the task; strength and patience to perform it.

Lord, show us the road map for Your God-conducted tour until the end of our journey. Show us what to do with these years because this is the only time we have to be old. Do not let us waste it. Help us to discover right now what it is You have for us to do.

We shall not pass this way again. We have today only once; help us to use it fully. Grant us wisdom, and grant us tenderness towards one another, recognizing that often our greater loneliness is an expression of our need to belong to You. Amen.

LIFT YOUR EYES AND LOOK TO THE HEAVENS: WHO CREATED ALL THESE? HE WHO BRINGS OUT THE STARRY HOST ONE BY ONE, AND CALLS THEM EACH BY NAME · FROM ISAIAH 40:26 NIV

Wordsearch Puzzles

by James Phillips

Since I have contributed so many puzzles to the Glad Tidings, the editor thought that it was time I wrote an article about how I write my puzzles, and how I got into this in the first place.

I got the idea about trying my hand at writing wordsearch puzzles while I was driving down the west coast from British Columbia to California. Around 1990, I had taken a trip from Vancouver to San Simeon, California. While driving, I had plenty of time on my hands. I took advantage of the time by thinking of things I would like to try. It seemed that this was something I could actually do.

When I returned to Toronto, I sat down with a couple of ideas for themes for a puzzle and got started. I found that I could indeed do it! Then I had the Sunday School class of the church that I went to, use the puzzles after the lesson for the children was over, and before the church service was finished.

I wrote to several church magazines and asked them if they were interested. On the second try to the Presbyterian Record, I got a reply back that although they could not use my work, I might try Glad Tidings. I did this, and my work was accepted!

As of the present time, Glad Tidings is the only magazine that uses my work. I am going to try once again with some magazines in the United States. In this kind of work, one must be prepared to be rejected quite often, so it is best to not be too easily discouraged.

The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:3-12

by Jim Phillips

P R O P H E T S E V I L A
D E T R O F M O C B N C S
M E R C I F U L R Q H S R
D E S S E L B Y C R E M E
G E C I E J E R P N R D K
R E J O I C E S S A I D A
X F D V J P U U Z J T E M
D M O U R N O T B O A L E
R O N K E E M O E I N L C
A D M U T C X K R D H I A
W G I H L Y L E S L A F E
E N G D E T U C E S R E P
R I G H T E O U S N E S S
R K S E E G O D K E G M P
U Y R A C H I L D R E N I
H R E V I L E C G U F E R
T E R E G N U H E P F L I
Z A S N Y B D T H I R S T

BLESSED are the POOR in SPIRIT, for theirs is the KINGDOM of HEAVEN.
Blessed are those who MOURN, for they will be COMFORTED.
Blessed are the MEEK, for they will INHERIT the earth.
Blessed are those who HUNGER and THIRST for RIGHTEOUSNESS, for they will be FILLED.
Blessed are the MERCIFUL, for they will receive MERCY.
Blessed are the PURE in heart, for they will SEE GOD.
Blessed are the PEACEMAKERS, for they will be called the CHILDREN of God.
Blessed are those who are PERSECUTED for RIGHTEOUSNESS sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people REVILE you and PERSECUTE you and utter all kinds of EVIL against you FALSELY on my account.
REJOICE and be glad, for your REWARD is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the PROPHETS who were before you.

Scissorcut Designs Make Delicate Cards

by Lini R. Grol

Scissor cutting is an ancient craft which originated in the Orient and reached Europe via the silk route. One of the earliest mentions of the craft concerns a scissors-crafters' guild which presented their finest work to the Emperor in Constantinople in AD 600.

In those days, both paper and scissors were scarce. The monasteries produced paper for the holy books illustrated by monks. One monk produced the entire book of Esther-not only illustrations but lettering too-in scissor cutting.

Lack of time and materials meant that scissor cutting was the pastime only of the privileged. But later it became more widespread, used to illustrate books and magazines, posters and fanciful cards.

Political cartoonists used the skill for caricatures while others put it to work making feature films.

You can try scissor cutting too with a minimum of tools and materials. All you need are sharp pointed scissors plus papers in contrasting colors and glue. I use white bond paper and I ask at a printer's for black or other colored paper of a comparable weight and quality. Avoid construction paper because it is too fibrous and will not provide a smooth edge.

The true scissors artist cuts all designs freehand but there's no law to prevent you from sketching before you start or even sketching outlines lightly onto the paper.

The paper may be folded if you want a symmetrical design or a mirror reflection, as in the Christmas tree. You may start with a symmetrical design and then open up the paper to cut individual motifs separately.

To achieve more detail, you must master the hollow cut or negative cut, which is the means of achieving the small white details in "Bonny", the child chasing butterflies.

For hollow cuts, you need a thinner, more supple paper.

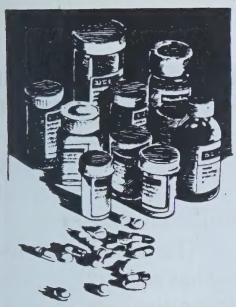
The nativity scene is a combination of techniques. The paper was folded first to create the symmetrical arch form, then opened to cut the silhouettes which are highlighted with hollow cuts.

To make the hollow cut, it helps to prick a little hole with a needle before applying scissors to avoid tears in the paper.

Scissor cutting is handy for making posters too. Cut equal squares of paper for uniformity, with larger squares for capitals. The job goes faster if you do several letters of the same type at once.

You may use any size of sheet for your cutting. Mine are worked many times larger than you see here and photocopied to any size. But one caution-the larger the sheet, the more visible your mistakes.

- Reprinted from Discovery, December 1985.



My Times Are in Thy Hands

by Doris M. Johnson

Andrew Gordon looked down at his sleeping wife. Gently he leaned over the bed and kissed her. She stirred but didn't awaken. He pulled the soft blanket over her shoulders and quietly left the room.

The doorbell rang as he reached the bottom stair. "Matt, Mary, come on in. Kendra's sleeping, but she has had a good day. Here, I'll put your coats in the closet." Andrew reached for the snowy jackets.

"We won't stay. Just wanted to know what the doctor had to say today." Mary sat on the closest chair, as if to run if Andrew had bad news.

"The doctor says that Kendra can't last much longer, the cancer has spread and will either touch the brain or her lungs, either one could be fatal. She knows and has accepted it. She is quite ready even though she hates to leave the family and her friends."

"So much spent on research, and yet nothing can be done. Makes you wonder what is happening to all that money," Matt said.

"Today after we came from the doctor's we visited her sister, then early this evening we went out to see the Christmas lights. She was so happy, but was tired out when we got home. I don't think she was awake for two minutes after I tucked her in."

"I brought her the church bulletin, thought she might like to see the news. She can do that tomorrow, though." Mary put the paper on the coffee table.

"Tomorrow, yes." Andrew covered his eyes.

"Would it make you feel better if we had a word of prayer before we leave?"

Prayer. Andrew bowed his head. Would God be listening? He felt so hypocritical. Prayer didn't seem to fit in with tonight's plans.

He sat with his head in his hands long after his company had gone. He and Kendra had gone over their plan many times.

"I want to be with you right to the end. Promise me that you will help," she had pleaded.

He had agreed, but she was better today, maybe she would go into remission. Tears filled his eyes. Silently he prayed. "Thy will be done." From out of nowhere he heard the words as he climbed the stairs to their room.

This was the night. Kendra had her new night gown on. Like the sheets and the new blanket and spread, it was pink. Tonight he would hold her in his arms for the last time. But first he would light the candles and turn on the music she had chosen.

He could almost hear her husky voice, "If you gotta go, you might as well go in style."

"But not tonight girl, just one more night."

Kendra opened her eyes. "Has something happened?"

Andrew held her close and whispered, "Yes." Something had happened. The candles flickered and the music flowed through him. How could he have thought.... Reaching over her he pushed the tablets onto the floor. God would decide when she should go.

IRAQ

by Nuhad Tomeh

Last October I had the chance to visit Iraq for the first time. My present ministry with the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) requires me to spend more time in Iraq to strengthen the relationship and find ways to give more support to the churches in their presence and witness at this difficult time. The MECC has been doing this for the last nine years or so. I would like to share with you some good news and some bad news; I will start with the good news.

The Christian Churches' (Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant) presence and witness is very alive and active in the Iraqi society. It is estimated that the Christian presence in Iraq today ranges from 2.5% - 5% of the total population. They are playing a constructive role and contributing a great deal to the overall wellbeing of the country.

They are strongly respected and their opinion is well heard nation-wide. Their spiritual life is very good. I was amazed that under such difficult circumstances there can be such a strong faith and a Christian commitment. People are seeking to grow in a wonderful way. "The Friday Sunday Schools" are witnessing a large attendance, participation in all other churches' programs are almost full.

Many people do not have means of transportation and many of them walk for two miles in the heat to get to church, to learn about the Bible and have fellowship with each other. In spite of the sanctions, churches are being built and Christians are growing in their faith and manifesting the love of God to all mankind. You cannot but see God's work, although the economy is in ruin, and the inflation rate is so high, making it nearly impossible to get your daily bread, the good news is that the Church of Jesus Christ is very much alive in Iraq.

Now the bad news: The social and economic situation in Iraq has reached its lowest ebb. Job opportunities are scarce, incomes are low, and families are struggling for survival. The inflation rate is so high (1 US$ = 1700 Iraqi Dinar) making the average salary in the ranges of 5-10 US dollars a month per family. According to UN sources 43% of the Iraqi population is malnourished, with the mortality rate reaching 8500 cases per month.

Health services are restricted to emergencies and hot cases while others are postponed, although 90% are rendered by the Ministry of Health. Major services like water and sanitation, and the availability of medicine are other big issues. I don't want to mention all the problems every family faces daily, but I want to share three:

1) The displaced families.

There are about 6000 displaced families, mostly in the south of Iraq, due to different wars. These displaced families have insufficient financial resources for food and clothing. Virtually all of the children living as IDP's suffer from malnutrition and other diseases. Because of the inability of the government to assist as a result of the sanctions, most of the IDP's are inadequately sheltered.

This is one area where the Middle East Council of Churches, the United Nations and other NGO's are very much involved, through providing shelters for these families and their children. I had the privilege, as the MECC representative, to officially open three of these shelters in three major southern cities: Amara, Basra, and

Photos: Above - A family waiting for their home (one room per family) to be completed later this spring in Nasriyah, southern Iraq.
Below - Nuhad Tomeh (center) is shown with Iraqi people.

Nasriyah. These centers will provide shelter for sixty families, one room per family with a shared bathroom and kitchen. You should have seen the joy and happiness on the faces of these families when they moved into these shelters.

2) Street Children.

Many children are unable to attend school throughout the country. School attendance has dropped for several reasons, one of which is that children try to find work in the streets of Baghdad or other major cities. Most of them come from poor families. If the father was killed in the wars, they have to earn a living to support the mothers and younger brothers and sisters. An entire generation of Iraqis is losing a chance for education. This problem is not only quite serious for this specific generation, but for the society as a whole since an entire generation of leadership may be lost. These are only some of the many problems that the Iraqi people must endure due to the sanctions.

3) Depleted Uranium.

Over the past few years the number of cancer-related cases and other unheard of diseases has dramatically increased, especially in the southern portion of the country. This epidemic has mostly affected the children of the region. Many are now born with deformities. Many medical experts believe that this epidemic is the result of the use of uranium-based weapons by the Coalition during the Gulf War. I am not going to argue against the sanctions imposed on Iraq. However, nothing will justify the killing of the innocent.

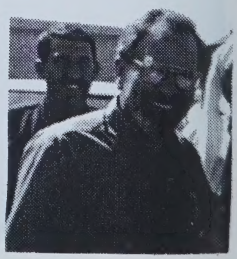
At this Easter time, and as we remember the suffering, the crucifixion and the resurrection of our Lord let us remember a whole nation, the Iraqi people, which face all kinds of suffering and being crucified daily.

Let me take you on an imaginary journey to southern Iraq and in particular to Amara, Basra and Nasriyah to meet hundreds of families and their children who are being crucified in all kinds of ways, and have lost the hope of the resurrection. These people have no shelter to protect them from the bombs and the missiles of the American and the British aggression. They have to drink polluted water, have no food, homes and medicine.

Let us visit those people whom Jesus was crucified for too, who do not need only a roof over their head and daily bread, but also need your prayer and support to challenge the big nations to stop the bombarding and the killing of innocent people in Iraq, and to lift the sanction.

They need you to give them signs of hope which are the signs of the resurrection and to assure for them in a way that after the cross there must be resurrection. Shout with me for justice, peace, hope and dignity for the Iraqi people. This would be the greatest celebration of the resurrection of our Lord, so His people in Iraq would be liberated from their oppressors.

- Nuhad Tomeh is an Evangelical (Presbyterian) pastor from Lebanon who is presently acting as a liaison between the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the churches in Iraq. The Presbyterian Church is Canada is an active partner with the MECC.



Coming of Age in Central America

by Joe Reed

How this place, and her people, have transformed me! I know that age itself would have changed me. But to have the privilege to live middle age here, amid the Central Americans has been a special gift for which I give thanks to God, to these people, and to you, who continue to make it possible.

Hurricane Mitch reigned (and "rained") its fury upon poor Nicaragua. Within a week, and in seemingly unconscionable insensitivity the president spoke to victims in the North of the country, to people who had lost everything, in some cases even their families. He said, (rough paraphrase):

'I know it's tough. But so are we. And we can't convert ourselves into beggars asking the international community for handouts. I'm a coffee grower (I hasten to add a wealthy coffee grower! The people to whom he was speaking earn US$3 a day.) And it would be easy to write off the whole crop. But we have our dignity. And we must produce.

And this, to people whose stomachs literally growled in protest and anger. Who clenched their fists unconsciously. Whose rage the President stirred. At first, I scratched my head in horror and disbelief.

Does he not remember? How people on the Atlantic Coast still complain about how his predecessor, a Sandinista, handled the hurricane of 1988? Or how they, the Sandinistas, brought down his own friend, the dictator Somoza, after his troops stole from the victims of the 1972 earthquake?

Does he not know that in this suffering country, the people will not forgive this kind of bold indifference? (A week later, the people literally turned its back upon him, before the rolling cameras, when he dared to visit, arriving in a helicopter, victims in Leon.)

But I have come of age here. And I have learned. There are things about this warm, loving, and deeply spiritual people that I shall never understand. As there are things about my own land and its people which will always puzzle me.

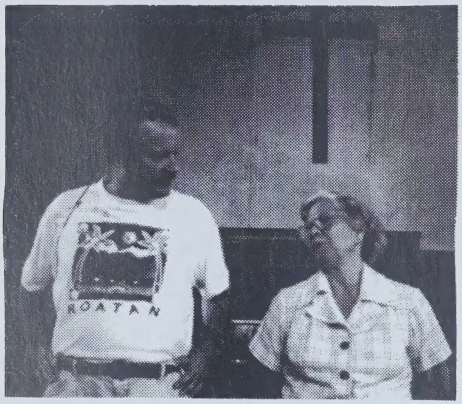
Another image. I feel out of touch with our church so often. Not the least when we debate, I must admit with decreasing intensity, the whole question of "inclusive language."

It's been close to thirty years since I called God, "Father", at least not without a twinge of doubt and hesitation.

Not since that day in 1966 or 1967 at PS 125 in Harlem when I chastised a twelve-year-old for looking distracted while we were learning the (then) new math, regrouping numerals as I recall. "I'm sorry Mr. Reed but my father killed my mother last night. He took a knife and then he stabbed her and now I'm scared."

It's been twenty years since I worked in a context where children had fathers. First in New York; then in the inner city of Montreal and now in urban Central America. Let me hasten to add: I exaggerate and I distort reality. Wonderful, warm and loving families, intact, thriving, dot the

- "Our man" Joe, in Santa Clara, Cuba.



urban landscape. In the rural areas, they are even the norm. But not in the cities: here they "shine by their absence."

For my godson, to call God "Father" means to conjure up a picture of a man who beat him as a three-year old with an electric extension cord and then disappeared from his life, and from that of his mother.

Some of our debates seem strangely alien. I have come of age and I have done so here, in Central America.

And then, the changes: some abrupt; some subtle. For two decades, committed to "theology of presence", to "walking with" sisters and brothers as they struggle to find themselves, to celebrate their God, to be God's children.

At Tyndale-St. Georges, in Montreal, we tried not to "preach" at the itinerant en route from Halifax to Toronto (so many traveled between those cities it seemed an endless stream). A can of soup, a welcoming word, even a winter coat. It was more important to be there than it was to make explicit the reason for our presence.

In Managua, John Duff walking through the poor neighbourhood of Jorge Dimitrov; Denise Van Wissen teaching the mother of a malnourished child that corn from the market will bring her achingly thin baby back to chubbiness faster than the U.S. imported corn flakes; in Guatemala City listening to the children of the city dump, born and reared in stifling, inhuman poverty, talk of their dreams to be teachers, nurses, professionals.

What richness these wonderful, hopeful people have brought me. How unworthy am I to share their stories and their liberation.

But now a subtle shift. Our partner in Costa Rica: "We've run co-ops and senior citizens feeding programmes for years. People need us and depend upon us. But we are the church. We need to tell them why we're here."

An African friend of mine, in Cameroun, in 1975: "People find it so easy to be down on the early missionaries because they failed to appreciate our culture. They rode rough-shod over our values. (Deciding, in a wonderful if humourous stretch that men who married more than one wife could not join the church because of their polygamy. The women, on the other hand, were welcomed, they had but one husband.) But how can they believe that you can really preach the Gospel, I mean really preach, and not have it challenge values and the way people live?" Still a good question.

An ancient (seemingly) crone grasps my legs in a refugee camp in San Salvador in 1986. "Go home and tell your people what they are doing to us." In the certainty that hearing, Christians act.

The director of regional health on the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua during the war. We were discussing the coming of a Canadian Presbyterian doctor to work with them. He asks, "But will he preach to us?"

I get defensive. "Well, he'll attend church, probably the Moravian one. But he is here to be with you, to serve your people.

He's not out to convert you but rather to walk alongside."

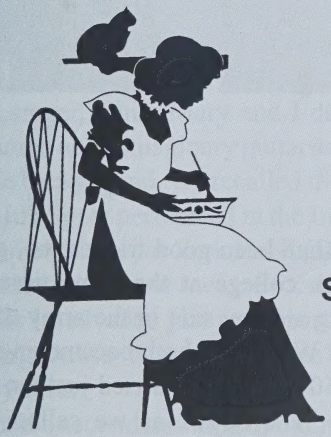
And the doctor (later, tragically, killed in an air plane crash in Honduras): "No, you don't understand. We have seen the strength you Christians seem to have in the midst of adversity. We want to know when it comes."

Do you care? We have walked together. We have changed.

I feel as if I too have come of age. It would have happened anywhere, but it would have been different.

And I give thanks to God. How this place, and her people, have transformed me! I know that age itself would have changed me. But to have the privilege to live middle age here, amid the Central Americans has been a special gift for which I give thanks to God, to these people, and to you, who continue to make it possible.

Mornings Bring Rebirth



She waited
only the steps
of the tenant upstairs
marring the silence.
The silence she chose
to start her day.
For her
mornings are rebirth.
She once told her children
when you hear me
singing
"I lift up my eyes
unto the hills"
as I stir your porridge
know that I am praying.

Elizabeth M. Tayti

Elizabeth Tayti is a member of Knox, Welland. She and her husband Zoltan still take speaking engagements in relation to their time with the PWS&D project DORMAA Presbyterian Girls Institute, Ghana.

"We'll Meet Again"

by Maryleah Otto

It is said that coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous. In other words, related incidents or connections that seem to occur by chance may really be just one of the mysterious ways in which a loving God makes His presence felt in our lives.

For most of my life, I had never given much thought to this belief but shortly after my husband died I had an experience that defied the odds of being merely accidental. It happened one morning while Mary, a dear friend from British Columbia, was visiting me at my home in southwestern Ontario. We used to be quite close when we were young, having grown up together in Toronto. Our husbands had been good friends too, going through college at the same time and serving side by side in the army during World War 2. We both became engaged in 1950 and were married just ten days apart. "The boys", as we called them acted as best man for each other at our weddings.

Gradually, new jobs meant moves to distant cities, children were born and life grew busier. The years passed and we kept in touch but only by letters, Christmas cards and occasional phone calls. Nevertheless, we always knew we were "friends for life". Several years ago I learned that Mary's husband had died suddenly of heart disease. A few years

later my own husband was lost at sea in a boating accident. And so, when Mary came to visit, we had countless stories to fill the hours.

One of the things we reminisced about was the incredibly happy years we spent double-dating in Toronto with "the boys" prior to our marriages. Dancing and enjoying popular music was often our first choice for an evening's entertainment. There were marvellous bands and superb musicians in those days but our favourite sounds were the honey-smooth vocals and relaxing bass rhythms of a group called The Ink Spots. We collected all their records and memorized the lyrics to their songs. "The boys" tried to imitate Bill Kenny, the lead singer, while Mary and I dum-de-dummed on an imaginary guitar and bass in the background. We recalled the night The Ink Spots performed in the Imperial Room of the Royal York Hotel. The four of us had saved our meagre incomes for weeks in advance just to be part of the unforgettable evening. It was worth every cent.

On the second morning of our reunion we were sitting in the family room leisurely sipping a second cup of coffee. As I refilled her cup, Mary smiled and said, "Remember the Java Jive? The Ink Spots did that song better than anyone else." Once again our thoughts returned to those bittersweet memories of so long ago. I felt as if I were slipping into time warp.

The radio, which I had switched on earlier just for background music, was playing softly. Suddenly I became aware of the unique guitar notes that were the signature introduction to every tune The Ink Spots played. Mary must have noticed it too for we both stopped talking in mid sentence. We listened expectantly. Then the song began and the sweet high tenor voice of Bill Kenny filled the room as clearly as it had nearly half a century earlier. Mary and I stared at each other in disbelief. Tears welled up in our eyes. He was singing "We'll Meet Again."

Was it just a coincidence that I tuned the radio to that particular station, or even turned it on at all?

Was it just a coincidence that the disc jockey decided to play the music of The Ink Spots, a nearly forgotten group from fifty years ago, now rarely heard?

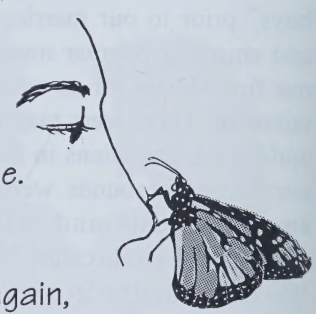
Was it just a coincidence that he chose the one song out of the hundreds the group recorded that would be so meaningful to us at that moment?

Was it just a coincidence that this happened while Mary and I were together, for the first time in decades, and were actually talking about The Ink Spots?

Well, perhaps it was, but the chances of all these elements coming together at the same time are very slim indeed. Mary and I prefer to think that God gave us this lovely little gift to reassure us that the love we felt for "the boys" - and they felt for us - can never die, for love is the purest of energies, indestructible and eternal. I'm convinced that "We'll Meet Again" was no accident.

Butterfly

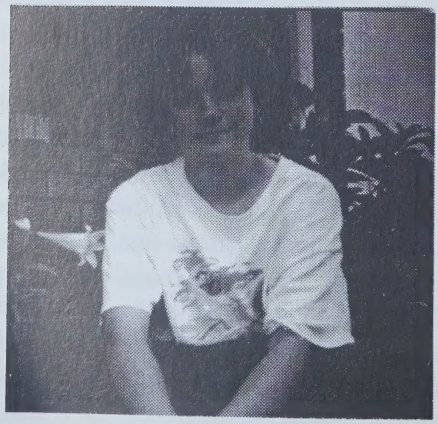
As the butterfly spreads its wings,
Like a baby bird learning to fly,
It soars off into the world of beauty
Fluttering to a height of happiness.



It lands on my nose,
Closing its wings,
It tickles my nose,
I see the beauty up close.

I twitch,
The butterfly takes flight again,
Its colours shine in the sunlight,
So vibrant and bright,

I see the beauty for the last time,
As it flutters away in the sun,
Onward to its next destination,
A place of beauty.



-Julie Hamilton
Tiverton, Ontario

Julie Hamilton is a Grade 10 student. She was 15 years old on July 10, 1998. Her grandmother, Alberta Smith, Tiverton, ON sent this poem in. It was used as a roll call with the Easter worship on "Butterflies".

EMERGENCY APPEAL

KOSOVO

Presbyterian World Service and Development

March 31, 1999

As the world watches, the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo continues to escalate. Tens of thousands of ethnic-Albanian refugees have been fleeing into neighbouring Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro.

Over 100,000 Kosovo Albanians have been uprooted since the NATO air strikes began on March 24, 1999. The majority of the refugees have fled to the neighbouring countries of Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro. These new refugees are in addition to the many Bosnians and Croatians who have been displaced as a result of the civil war.

Presbyterian World Service & Development is involved in the region through two emergency relief agencies: Action by Churches Together (ACT) and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB). Both are closely monitoring the situation to determine the most appropriate and effective response.

ACT's partners in the region, including the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC), Norwegian Church Aid and the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) have been responding to the overwhelming number of refugees streaming across the borders. PWS&D has provided an aid grant of $5000 to ACT, to help provide food, clothing and temporary housing for the refugees.

The CFGB, with coordination by the Mennonite Central Committee Canada, is arranging for a $130,000 food shipment to the refugee camps. This will supply food packets for Bosnian and Croatian refugees as well as Kosovar internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Montenegro. Six containers with wheat, lentils, oil, and sugar is currently en route. PWS&D has contributed $10,000 to this relief effort.

You may make a donation through your church offering, clearly marking your gift **PWS&D—Kosovo**, and ask the treasurer to forward it quickly. Income tax receipts will be issued. Or send a donation directly to:

Presbyterian World Service & Development
50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, Ontario M3C 1J7

For more information call (416) 441-1111, toll-free 1-800-619-7301, fax (416)441-2825
e-mail pwsd@presbyterian.ca and check updates on the internet - ACT: www.wcc-coe.org/act/
PWS&D: www.presbyterian.ca/lifemission/pwsd/, CFGB: www.foodgrainsbank.ca

Please publicize and post

IN MEMORY OF HER

by Margaret Robertson, Program Secretary

Gathering for Worship

Come before God just as you are.
Come and listen for God's word from wh ,re you are.
Come and worship God.

Mark 14:3-9

While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her." (NRSV)

Thinking about the scripture story

When we remember the stories of Easter, we are more likely to remember the stories of Judas and Peter than the woman with the alabaster jar. She has been almost forgotten. In fact, her name is forgotten. We do know that she performed an act of love. The monetary cost was unimportant to her, but not to Jesus' dinner companions. They questioned her and scolded her. They had clearly listened to Jesus' teachings about helping the poor. But they had only heard one side of his message. Here we find that acts of love and kindness are equally important as helping the poor. She gave the ultimate gift, the gift of love. She nurtured Jesus. She was a faithful disciple when all else seemed to be falling apart around him.

Discussion (optional)

Name the women, the faithful disciples, who have nurtured you in your spiritual or religious life. Choose women of the Bible, women who have been religious leaders and/or women you know or have known. [Talk about them in groups of 3 or 4 people or in your full gathering.]

Litany

One: Let us now praise great women and our mothers who lived before us.
All: What she has done will be told in memory of her.
One: She took heart and was healed by her faith.
Come, all you women of heart and faith.
All: What she has done will be told in memory of her.
One: She had courage and great faith, and saved her daughter.

Come, all you women who make an offering of love.
All: What she has done will be told in memory of her.
One: She, out of her poverty, gave everything she had.
Come, all you women who have little, but give much.
All: What she has done will be told in memory of her.
One: There were many women there, watching by the cross.
Come, all you women who wait faithfully on the Lord.
All: What she has done will be told in memory of her.
One: The women ran from the tomb, in fear and great joy, to tell the others.
Come, all you sisters with a gospel to proclaim.
All: What she has done will be told in memory of her.
One: Let us praise great women and our mothers before us,
The generations of women through whom God's glory has been seen.
Come, faithful people, women and men.
All: Let us all praise God in memory of her.

-Scissor cut by Lini R. Grol

From Disaster...

Hurricane in
Central America.
Civil War in Sudan.
Famine in North Korea.
Drought in Malawi.
Floods in India, Hungary
and the Ukraine.

Through PWS&D you are there to provide food, shelter and medical assistance to people in times of crisis...

Presbyterian World Service & Development
50 Wynford Drive
Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
phone: 416-441-1111
or 1-800-619-7301
e-mail: pwsd@presbyterian.ca
web: www.presbyterian.ca

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." **2 Corinthians 9:7**

Charitable Gift Annuity.
A Legacy For Your Church, An Income For Life.

GOD BLESSES EACH OF US IN A special way ... some with the gift of compassion, others with wisdom and still others with knowledge or understanding. Whatever our gifts, it is when we share them that we come to know God's grace more deeply.

So it is with finances. There are a number of ways you can share in the future work of The Presbyterian Church in Canada ... as well as of your congregation ... other than through your regular Sunday offerings.

A Charitable Gift Annuity, for example, allows you to help support the ongoing work of the Church, offers you an income tax advantage ... AND provides you with an income for life.

The program is flexible, allowing you to choose which part of the Church's work to support: help for poor and homeless people, Christian Education, mission work in developing nations, training ministers, the work of the Women's Missionary Society or some combination of these. Or it may also be support for a program in your own congregation that holds a special meaning for you. Your financial commitment today will be a living legacy for generations to come.

To find out more about Charitable Gift Annuities or other financial tools that will help you make a difference, fill in and mail the coupon below.

Hendy Andrews, *Presbyterian Church Planned Giving Office*
342 Pond Mills Road, London Ontario N5Z 3X5
Toll-free telephone 1-800-368-1371 • Fax (519) 649-5142

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____

Glad Tidings 3/4-1998

"I"-Witness

Oban Thunder* Cameron, my first born Maritime grandson, lives in a very rural area, runs the woods, is homeschooled and there are no children his age living within walking distance. Oban is nine years old. In December 1998, he found out that sharing can have far reaching results.

He unexpectedly received one dollar for helping out a neighbour woman. He decided to use the money to buy a gift for a girl he knew. While the transaction was taking place, a male shopper overheard the conversation. He gave Oban five dollars with instructions to use part for himself and to spend part on someone else "to keep the goodwill going".

This illustrates, more than grandmother could by telling , that when we share what we have, we are never left wanting ourselves. It has always been my belief that if men and women, even if they do not have a great deal, would loose their grasp on their bounty, it would come back to them in some fashion.

What can we share if we have little? Well, if you have more than enough wood to get you through the winter, and your neighbour is down to his last cord, and has no job, you could share your wood. If your freezer is full and you know you will not need it all before the next harvest, you could share with the friend or neighbour who is almost down to the bottom.

You could be like a girl in my town who gave her birthday gifts to a local agency so that some children, less well off, would have a new gift for last Christmas. You could be like Oban, sharing without any thought of reward.

Elizabeth M. Tayti, Welland, ON

Oban was named for an old sea-side tourist spot in Scotland that his mother saw a sign for when she was pregnant. Oban means the "bay of caves". Thunder is his spirit name for the power he brings into the world.

...to Development

Community kitchens in Nicaragua.
Wells in Malawi.
Women's Groups in Mozambique.
Health Programs in India.

...and you are there, standing with the people as they struggle to overcome some of the long term causes and problems of poverty.

You can make a difference!

Please continue to support

Presbyterian World Service & Development

(PWS&D receives no funds from Presbyterian Sharing. . .)

BOOKS

Order from:
The Book Room
50 Wynford Drive
North York, ON M3C 1J7
416-441-1111 Ext. 239/240
E-mail: Bookroom@presbyterian.ca
Hours: Mon-Fri-9:00-4:45

1-800-619-7301
Please do not send payment with your order. (An invoice including postage and applicable tax will be sent with your order.) Please include name and location of congregation. **Note: VISA and Mastercard now accepted.**

Return to Korea by Florence J. Murray. Essence Publishing, Belleville, ON. 1999. $17.95

Florence J. Murray, MD, is something of a legend in Korea. When she went there in 1921, it was under the Presbyterian flag, to work in the mission hospital in Hamheung, a city that is in what is now North Korea. Her life story is full of adventure, danger and triumph in a part of the world that viewed western medicine with suspicion, and women doctors with distrust. She lived through the pre-war years of turmoil in Korea under Japanese domination, returned to Canada in a Prisoner of War Exchange, then as soon as the opportunity opened, went back to Korea to continue giving medical aid, instruction and leadership.

She has told her story in two books, At the Foot of Dragon Hill (1975) and Return to Korea (1999).

In the preface to her first book, she gave a brief summary of her early life and preparation for the work she was to undertake. Born in Pictou Landing, Nova Scotia on February 16, 1894, Florence grew up in a minister's family, and received her early education in a variety of places in the Maritimes. Her first ambition was to become a minister, but at that time women were not ordained in The Presbyterian Church. She chose to enter medicine, though even there, women were only beginning to make their way.

After graduating from Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown, PEI, she took her medical training at Dalhousie University, Halifax, the only woman candidate in her year. Her baptism of fire came when the Halifax Explosion of 1917 created an emergency of unbelievable proportions. She was a fourth year medical student, and despite her lack of practical experience, was pressed into immediate service. She so distinguished herself that she was shortly after appointed chief anesthetist for the YMCA emergency hospital.

Following quickly upon the Halifax emergency was the 1918 world-wide epidemic of Spanish 'flu. Again she was recruited, although still an undergraduate, and sent to Lockport, NS where the local doctor had also fallen ill. Again she demonstrated her ability, and saw the town through the crisis.

After her graduation in 1919, she spent a traumatic internship in the Long Island Hospital in Boston Harbour, then returned to Halifax and took up private practice. It was then that she decided that she wanted to serve as a medical missionary in Korea, to work beside Dr. Kate MacMillan, a pioneer in the field.

The years in Korea from her appointment in 1921 until her departure in 1942 are described in vivid detail in At the Foot of Dragon Hill. Her physical and moral strength, her unwavering Christian faith,

and her keen sense of humour, carried her through many emergencies and years of testing. The struggle with the Korean language, the cultural demands of living in Korea, and the ever-present Japanese bureaucracy of that day, would have broken a weaker spirit.

Back in Halifax, she took leave of absence from her mission (now under The United Church of Canada) and opened a private practice. But when the opportunity to resume her work in Korea came in 1947, she welcomed it, and returned to her first love. The present book Return to Korea continues the story, carrying it from her journey across the Pacific in an American hospital ship, through the re-building of the mission, her role in medical work during the Korean war and its aftermath, and her further work until it came to a halt with the receiving of notification from the mission office in Toronto of her mandatory retirement in 1964 at age 70.

The book is in narrative form, full of anecdotes, and with flashes of humour - a rarity in stories of war, tension and hardship. She modestly leaves out the fact that she received a medal from King Gustav Adolph of Norway for her service upon the Jutlandia, and that Dalhousie University conferred an LL.D upon her for her years of distinguished service. Return to Korea is a book to which readers will want to return, and savour the life of a heroic and dedicated servant of God.

Priscilla & Bob Anderson

Available from The Book Room: WMS Bulletin Insert

Taking Mission to New Heights is a colourful new bulletin from the office of Program Secretary, Margaret Robertson. What is the WMS? What has the WMS achieved in the past? What new challenges lie ahead?

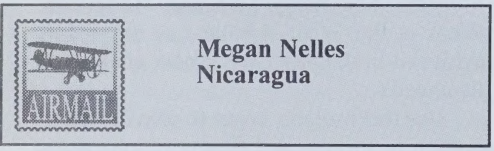
Use this bulletin insert to provide information to groups and congregations about the exciting things that are happening in the Women's Missionary Society. Stimulate discussion on future actions.

Available from The Book Room free of charge. Call and order a supply today.

***WHAT'S TO BE DONE WITH A PUMPKIN?* by Linda Wegner is a book filled with ideas!**

This 86 page book contains 20 theme plans for women's fellowship activities and is easily adaptable for senior citizens or youth activities as well as for home entertaining. Included are ideas for decorating, food, games and activities, take-home gifts and complete devotionals for each theme.

Available from: Linda Wegner
B0x 122 Stoughton, SK
S0G 4T0
Send $15 (plus $2.00 shipping)



Megan Nelles
Nicaragua

Megan Nelles, a member of Caven Presbyterian Church in Caven (ON), recently graduated high school. She will be spending almost a year as a volunteer in Central America. After initial language study in Guatemala, she arrived to work with the people of Chaguitillo, Nicaragua. From there she writes:

As I prepared to leave on my trip to Central America, I tried not to develop preconceived ideas or to buy into the reputation that these countries have in Canada as I wanted to keep an open mind for the things that I would see and experience. Any ideas I did have, however, have long since been shattered by my experience this far.

We hear so much about the political corruption, the poverty, the natural disasters, the domestic violence, and the crime. It would be easy enough to focus on these things and see the truth in these terrible stories, but to do so is to miss out on the whole story: the strength, resilience and beauty of this land and its people.

I am often asked what I like most about Central America and as much as my answer changes from day to day, one constant is the people, especially the children. I have tried to explain what it is that I like so much about the people here in my letters home, but the truth is that it can't be put into words. It isn't the things that you can point to and name that I've fallen in love with but rather a presence. As Helen Keller once said, "The best and most beautiful things in life are neither seen nor touched; but must be felt with the heart."

We are constantly being bombarded by heart breaking stories through the television, radio, and newspapers that we become apathetic and indifferent. As sad as these stories are, they are not personal; we don't know the people involved and besides, life must go on.

But everywhere there is an equilibrium at play and I am blessed to see the other side of the coin, because where there is great sorrow, there is also much to rejoice in. And so I ask you to keep these people in your prayers and to pray for these things; that they might continue to smile and laugh and enjoy life.

Glenn & Linda Inglis
Malawi

March 7, 1999 -We are nearing the end of the rainy season that has been generally adequate in most parts of the country. Like Canada, we suffer from the vagaries of changing weather patterns. The rains have tended to be very heavy and have created damage to crops, roads and houses. There is also the fear of too much rain - the crops are now mature and need a dry spell before harvesting.

As 85% of Malawians are directly dependent on agriculture for their livelihood, weather and crop reports are of tremendous importance. Last year's harvest was poor so there has been considerable hunger in the country since before Christmas. The UN Food Programme has been bringing extra maize into Malawi.

The World Bank's Structural Adjustment Programme has been hurting the small businessman and farmers. Subsidies are gone on seed, fertilizer and petroleum products, so prices have gone sky-high. There is maize available in the markets but at world prices, which most people can't afford.

The other unmistakable event in Malawi is the approaching national and presidential elections that are slated for May. There is a lot of donor money coming into Malawi from the European Union and USA (and Canada to a lesser extent), to ensure that the elections are free and fair. These are the second national elections in the post-Banda democracy, so the world community is anxious that democracy takes deeper roots here.

Beside the weak economy and upcoming elections, the major topic on everyone's mind is 'security'. By this, people are referring to the increase in robbery and break-ins that are occurring even in the rural areas. The massive increase in unemployment under the World Bank 'reforms' plus the importation of guns from post-civil war Mozambique are creating problems which Malawian authorities have not had to face before.

The police are undermanned and under-equipped to deal with the crisis. A lot of areas are forming neighbourhood watches. On the negative side, people are so tired of robberies that they are inflicting instant 'justice' on anyone caught robbing.

Glenn continues to manage the Church and Society Desk of the Blantyre Synod Projects Office. The major focus of this programme is to promote the civil society in Malawi. By this is meant the development of a sense of Christian citizenship among individuals as well as transparency and accountability in public institutions. We focus on the elements of democracy, civil rights, gender, political economy and conflict resolution skills.

In addition, we are also running an intensive programme in Voter Education leading up to the elections. Through a grant from USAID we are training election trainers who will hold workshops in each of the 350 congregations of the Synod by May.

In February, Glenn was inducted as Associate Minister of Michiru Congregation in one of the suburbs of Blantyre. This Congregation built a large church about 10 years ago and now has a membership of over 3,000. The English service begins at 6 am.

Linda continues to work with a challenged group she helped to found over 15 years ago. Their weekly meetings promote community values, skill development, income generation projects as well as assisting physically handicapped youth with operations and wheel chairs.

Linda also visits the Community Based Orphan Care Centres run by the Projects Office. These are NOT orphanages, but community run centres where both orphans and children with parents can enjoy a pre-school programme along with a hot meal. Linda adds a programme of music and puppets which is greatly appreciated.

Enough of the parents! Jocelyn continues in second year at UBC. We miss her a lot but are grateful that she is able to visit us - especially over Christmas.

Luke is finishing form 5 at St. Andrew's International High School. He has been active in sports this year, doing well in diving and scaring his mother with his new love of rugby.

Naomi is in form 2 at St. Andrew's and doing very well. She is keeping up her Susuki violin programme, thanks to a Church of Christ missionary who holds classes for many children in Blantyre.

The big excitement we share as a family is the anticipated move into 'Canada House' later in April. This house is wholly funded by International Ministries and is a venture in faith to strengthen the partnership between our Churches.

We often reflect on the meaning of Mission as we approach the millenium. In many ways, Malawi is a more Christianized nation than Canada. All Churches continue to grow and there are few Malawians who would say they have no compelling faith to guide their lives. Indeed, the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) in its five Synods is now over 100 years old and is truly an indigenous church.

It carries out its own evangelistic, education and discipleship programmes. But that does not mean that mission co-operation should end. The CCAP is looking for specialized help in many areas of its work. There are now more short-term openings for qualified individuals through the growing programmes of the Projects Office.

There is also the need for training - it is very hard for Malawians to find resources to study overseas. And, it would be great if the PCC could find ways of inviting Malawian missionaries to live and serve in Canada so we could share our faith and gifts in a two-way pattern.

We are encouraged and strengthened by your letters and prayers. It is very important to us to remember each day that many people in Canada pray for our work and safety here. We would like to be as helpful to you as possible. If you have requests for information or have thoughts about mission, please be in touch. We have a fairly reliable email service - although the phone lines are another story - and you can reach us at ginglis@malawi.net

We wish you a full measure of the hope that is ours through the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

In His Name,
Glenn, Linda, Jocelyn, Luke and Naomi

Heather Jones
Malawi

Greetings Friends!

Communication has been difficult lately. My friends here are calling me the "rolling stone" these days. I am staying with various friends, as my house is being renovated. After more than a year, I am finally going to have INDOOR PLUMBING!

I wrote last year about the house that I was given to stay in. I recall that at that time, I was grateful to have a toilet that flushed. However, thirteen months later, having gone outside to use the toilet at all hours, and carting water into plastic basins to do dishes every day, I am looking forward to having a kitchen sink, a toilet, and a shower all under one roof.

My house is located on property owned by the Church. There are about 15 houses in the area. Some of them are like the one I have been in for this past year, though others are more like the house I will have when the workers are finished.

As I write this, the outer walls for the extension are about 6 feet high. The kitchen and storage room windows have been put in place, and the door frame is in place.

After they had worked a few days, I asked the workers if they thought they would be finished by March 31. My sister is coming to visit me, and I want the house to be ready for her. The workers told me

that they would try, but it was difficult as they were "working with hunger". This is the "hungry season" here in Malawi. The maize (corn) that these men and their families would have grown last year has all been used. This year's harvest is not yet ready, and won't be for some weeks.

Speaking with my friends about this later, they told me that many builders make provision of a noon-time meal part of the contract. This way, workers are better able to work strongly and efficiently. The next day I went to the store and bought 20kg of maize flour and gave it to the workers. This bag lasted about 2 weeks, and I have replaced it when it finished.

Now when I check in at the house in late morning, I see one of the workers setting up a small fire to cook on. The workers tell me every day how much they appreciate this meal, and how they are sure to take care of my small dog, Pokey, by sharing nsima with him.

Heather

Pauline Brown
Jobat, India

So much has happened since my return to India, after a hectic month of mind-boggling experiences in Canada - I have a "hood" and "certificate" as proof! Two days after arrival, I attended the silver anniversary celebrations of the M. P. Voluntary Health Association, held at Indore. Having been a founding member of the Association, as well as Honorary Secretary for several years, it was an honour and pleasure to be invited as a special guest.

Since then there has been little reprieve: from the Himalayas to the South, with innumerable stops in between, to various

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Nicaragua:

1. For the people of Chaguitillo with whom Megan Nelles works.

Malawi:

1. For the peace and security of Malawi as it prepares for elections in 1999.
2. For the 'AIDS Orphans', soon to reach one million out of a total population of only 10.5 million people, that the Churches and other agencies can find material and spiritual resources to deal with this tragedy.
3. For Blantyre Synod as it comes through a period when its General Secretary was retired and plans are underway to choose a new leader who will guide the Synod for the next five years.
4. For the security of Mission Staff in Malawi from all churches. The PCC currently has eight mission staff in Malawi.
5. For the deepening of faith among Malawian Christians as they move from a preoccupation with personal faith to a confrontation with the principalities and powers that confront the very fabric of the nation.
6. For the ministry of Heather Jones, and that her new house may be truly a 'home' for her and others.

India:

That Pauline Brown's ministry will continue to bless the people with whom she works so faithfully.

meetings and functions related to Synod, Diocese, Development and Health programs at all levels, along with "other" groups.

As a nominee of our new Bishop to the Diocesan Council, after many years I attended the Council meetings held in October, and was astounded to be elected to Diocesan Executive and Financial Committee. Having been appointed chair of our regional medical board, with its seven institutions, and requested by Bishop Maida to not resign for the present as Coordinator of the Diocesan Development Programme, plus the 'regular' jobs (including attendance at court), my plate seems pretty full.

How thankful I am to a gracious Father who faithfully, and abundantly, supplies each and every need, as well as so many rich 'extras', like good health, wonderful friends and family like you, fine colleagues with whom to work and pleasant, healthful surroundings in which to live. He has truly "cast our lines in pleasant places".

This coming November 20 will see me completing 47 years in India. That bright sunny day when I stepped off the gangplank in Bombay harbour, so many years ago, never gave an inking that the association would last so long. It has been a fine and rewarding association, containing a lifetime of learning and blessing.

I always enjoy and am thankful for hearing from you. Thank you so much for all the wonderful memories you have contributed to.

With love in Christ,
Pauline

OVERSEAS STAFF BIRTHDAYS

June
10- Joy Randall,Taiwan
15 - Wendy Lessard-Clouston, Japan
20 - Clarence McMullen, India
22 - Rebecca Leona Onuoha, Nigeria
24 - Mark Young, Malawi
25 - Christopher Jorna, Guyana
26 - Miriam Barrie, Malawi
26 - Mark Gordon
July
22 - Makram, Barsoum, Cyprus
31 - Jonathan Schwarz, Nepal

Little Things

A smile we give,
a word spoken
lovingly,
a gesture of concern
break the routine
of daily living.

We like to dream
of grand events,
focus on heroic deeds,
on achieving
honours hard to reach,
but little things
on top of one another
give weight
to life.

Maria Stam

NEWS

NAZARETH - LIFE AS JESUS LIVED

- Ross Dunn, Nazareth, 3 December (ENI)--An ambitious project has been launched to reconstruct an ancient part of Nazareth as a living village - looking and operating as it did when Jesus Christ lived here.

On 21 November a ground-breaking ceremony was held on the eight-hectare site and organizers have begun a major fund-raising drive for the estimated $US60 million needed to complete the work.

About 200 volunteers, including Christians and Muslims from Nazareth, have already cleared the area so work can begin. The village will be constructed in part from archaeological remains of ancient stone watchtowers.

According to the project managers, it is highly probable that Jesus walked on the site, as during his lifetime there were only 300 villagers. "It's more than likely he was involved in this area [of farmland]," archaeologist Ross Joseph Voss, a Roman Catholic working at the site, told ENI. People from Nazareth would be hired, dress in first-century clothes and perform tasks such as weaving and farming, he said. The products of their labour, including wine and olive oil, would be offered for sale.

The staff will also act as storytellers, explaining the early life of Jesus. Visitors will also be able, if they wish, to wear first-century robes - wool in winter and linen in summer - and sandals, and join in village activities like treading grapes to produce wine.

"Here you have a piece of property that is nearly contiguous with the original village, and it just happens by chance or by miracle that this here has not been developed. Everything else is covered with concrete and dug up and covered over."

"Where people once saw dusty stones and open meadows, we hope they will now see the mustard plants, thistles, and olive trees of Jesus' childhood that he used to illustrate spiritual truth," said Dr. Nakhle Bishara, a member of the Greek Orthodox Church.

"I grew up in Nazareth since childhood," he said. "I came to realize that most of the parables of Jesus were taken from his actual surroundings. All these parables have deep spiritual meaning, but they are all taken from the surroundings of Nazareth."

The project is expected to take about five years to complete, but visits will begin in 2000, even though the village will only be partly built.

GOVERNMENT ACTION NOT ENOUGH

- Ferdy Baglo, Ottawa, 5 March (ENI)--Although Canadian churches had collected and delivered more than 10,000 postcards urging the federal government to make child poverty in Canada a priority, only a minimal response was given in the annual federal budget presented by the government last month, according to church campaigners.

Postcards signed by Canadians from coast to coast were presented to Finance Minister Paul Martin three weeks before the budget was presented in mid-February, in the hope that the government would announce significant measures in the issue of child poverty in Canada: child benefits for low income and social assistance families; affordable and safe housing; education about parenting; improved access to pre-natal care and improved nutrition

Greg deGroot-Maggetti, socio-economic issues

coordinator of a campaigning organization, Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ), told ENI: "I think it is significant that there was mention of some modest steps with respect to child poverty and support for families with children.

"But, when you take it in the context of what Paul Martin said a couple of months ago: 'We should essentially establish the elimination of child poverty as a great national objective, not unlike what we did with the deficit', this budget doesn't demonstrate that kind of resolve."

(Citizens for Public Justice originated in the Christian Reformed Church, but now draws its support from more than 1500 Christians from many churches across Canada.)

ARCHAEOLOGISTS FIND 6TH CENTURY CHURCH

- Ross Dunn, Jerusalem, 12 March (ENI)--Archaeologists have discovered the remains of a 6th-century Byzantine church dedicated to John the Baptist at a Israeli military installation in the Gaza Strip.

The church, which measures 13 by 25 metres and is well preserved, has extensive marble floor tiles and multi-coloured mosaics of geometric shapes and flora motifs, as well as several Greek inscriptions.

Translated by the Israel Antiquities Authority's Professor Vassilios Tzaperis, the inscriptions are: (from Psalm 95:1) "O come, let us sing unto the lord," mistakenly rendered as "O come, let us become sanctified unto the Lord"; and (from Deut. 28:6) "Blessed will you be when you come in, and blessed will you be when you go out."

At the entrance to the church is a multi-coloured mosaic of a medallion containing 11 lines which state the church dedicated to John the Baptist, was founded in 544 and completed in 550. It also praises the church's benefactors - Victor and John.

Archaeologist Ya'akov Huster, who is in charge on ongoing excavations for the Israeli Antiquities Authority, told ENI that the remains of the church provided more evidence about the Christian community in the area of the Gaza Strip.

"These discoveries show that this was a major church in a successful community in the mid-6th century, during the reign of Justinian [when monuments to Christianity were often lavish in the Holy Land]," he said.

"The site of the latest discovery also raises other problems - the church is on an Israeli military installation at Tel a-Shakef in the north-west edge of the Gaza Strip.

The Gaza Strip, captured by Israel during the 1967 war, is today a patchwork of Palestinian self-rule areas, Jewish settlements and Israeli army bases.

"I believe that the army will remove the installation so I can complete the exposure of all the church," he said.

GUATEMALA RELEASES MAIN SUSPECT

- Paul Jeffrey, Guatemala City, 19 February (ENI) -- The main suspect in the murder of a Roman Catholic bishop was released on 17 February after a judge ruled there was insufficient evidence to hold him any longer.

Mario Orantes had been in custody for almost seven months. Orantes is a Catholic priest who shared a house with Bishop Juan Gerardi, the auxiliary bishop of Guatemala City. The bishop was murdered on 26 April last year, two days after publishing a report blaming the military for most of the violence during Guatemala's recently-concluded civil war.

With Orantes free, the case may quietly settle into history, along with many other unsolved political killings in Guatemala.

Gutierrez doubted whether criminal investigations would ever lead to the arrest and conviction of the bishop's murderers. Only a "political investigation" would produce the culprits, he said.

ANIMALS IN HEAVEN

by Cedric Pulford

London, 8 March (ENI)--Even the dedication of the new book by animal rights theologian Dr. Andrew Linzey is likely to prove controversial.

Animal Rites, a book of liturgies for animals, is dedicated to a dog, Barney, "still wagging his tail in heaven".

"I totally believe in animals in heaven," Dr. Linzey told ENI. "The question is not will there be animals in heaven, but will humans be there. We are wicked, violent and selfish, although we have the unique capacity to judge the moral significance of our actions."

However, many church people could not accept the idea of an after-life for animals and found it "deeply subversive" to see animals, like humans, as creatures incarnated by God, he added.

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL FOR NIGERIA

- Obed Minchakpu, Jos, Nigeria, 11 March (ENI)--Key church officials have called on Nigeria's citizens to accept the election of General Olusegun Obasanjo as the nation's new president, and to put bitter argument over the election result behind them.

At the same time, president-elect Obasanjo has promised that under his democratic administration the country will witness a spiritual rebirth, leading to political stability, a turnaround for the economy and improved living standards for the 100 million citizens of Africa's most populous nation.

General Obasanjo, who is a Baptist, said that the "abysmal depth" into which Nigeria's economy had sunk required efforts beyond "cosmic economic measures". He was addressing a press conference in Abuja, Nigeria's capital city, on 1 March, after his election on 27 February as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

RUSSIANS ARGUE OVER CELEBRATING WOMEN'S DAY

-Andrie Zolotov, Moscow, 9 March (ENI) - Still faithful to a long-standing Soviet tradition, millions of Russian men yesterday 8 March made special efforts to show their appreciation for their mothers, wives, girlfriends and women colleagues. The men brought bunches of flowers and boxes of chocolates, and performed what many people here regards as women's chores - shopping and taking the children for a walk.

In many countries 8 March - International Women's Day - is generally ignored by the public. But in much of the former Soviet Union, 8 March is a national holiday, somewhat similar to a combination of Mother's Day and St. Valentine's celebrations popular in many countries of the West.

However, within Russia's biggest religious organization, the Orthodox Church, many conservatives are asking whether International Women's Day was established early this century by Clara Zetkin (1857-1933), a revolutionary feminist and social Democrat who later became one of the first members of Germany's Communist Party.

The St. Paul's 'Towers of Hope' Time Capsule

Readers will probably associate and recognize much of this story with happenings in their own church and congregation. The congregation of St. Paul's have endured a very busy two years concerning a huge venture. Our lovely old church building was constructed in 1905, but due to the atmospheric conditions and chemicals it started to literally crumble - water was leaking into the building, paint was peeling, and so on.

A restoration Committee was formed and a lot of hard work ensued: consultations with architects, engineers and many others. Estimates were considered and a final decision was made. We, as a congregation, realized that we had to raise $400,000 which for a small congregation is quite a challenge. However, we are fortunate to have loyal hardworking people with tremendous faith that believe God and our faith will see us through.

One of the joys of this venture was to discover a Time Capsule when the cornerstone was removed. This contained a very brittle *Globe and Mail*, some small change and other items. When the time came to replace the cornerstone we were fortunate to be presented with a very strong stainless steel capsule.

In this capsule, at the invitation from our minister Rev. David McBride, we placed a copy of our directory with comments written by us near our photos. We were also invited to attend a ceremony after our morning service Sunday November 20, 1998. The Mayor of Port Hope, Ronald Smith, was present and the actual capsule was placed in position by Michael Wladyka, a very respected member of our congregation and the Port Hope community.

When the ceremony was over we all were happy to go inside and enjoy some hot coffee. I think we all felt part of history that day. The building is now repaired; all the bricks are in place; most of the painting is done and it looks every bit a part of the Port Hope Heritage buildings.

A number of fund raising events were organized such as a "Ross Metcalfe Night" on the retirement of our organist; a delightful Art Show, which included visitors from as far away as New York; a Toe Tapping Celtic dinner and concert, and a Sparkling Pink Gala luncheon.

All these affairs were arranged by members with great imagination and no fear of hard work. I would be remiss if I did not mention our wonderful women always in the background preparing delicious sandwiches and dinners, and the men doing the washing up.

This is probably not a unique story, but it is *our* story. We still have a long way to go. However with faith in ourselves and God we will keep working towards our goal.

Submitted by Cynthia Fraser-Palmer for St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Port Hope, Ontario.

Dear Friends:
My prayer is that this outreach ministry (Glad Tidings cassette tape ministry) may continue for a long time. A friend gives me Glad Tidings on tape as a Christmas gift that goes on giving inspiration to me all year. I sincerely appreciate the volunteer readers. May God richly bless you as you serve so faithfully.

J. M., London, ON

Seniors on the Go

Living out of Cans, Boxes and Bags

by Norma Tomlinson

Sweet Potato Yams in Orange Cups

Cut into half 3 or 4 oranges. Reserve the juice and put shells into shallow pan.

Open large can of sweet potatoes or yams. Warm potatoes in their juice in a saucepan. When potatoes are hot, drain and mash. Add reserved orange juice and a tablespoon of butter, salt and pepper to taste. Mix well. Pack into orange shells. Put 4 or 5 small marshmallows on each and brown in broiler of oven.

Weather

It's scary when it's storming out,
It makes me want to hide
It makes me want to worry,
When it's cold and dark outside.
Then I stop and think of God,
I remember He is near,
It makes me feel much better,
Knowing God is here!

Amanda Carter

Forward in Faith

I am a person who has many allergies. Some days I need to limit my exposure to perfumes and other pungent odours. I retreat to my home. When I regain my energy level, I venture out into the world.

As treasurer of the WMS Council Executive, I look at the revenues from the Presbyterials and I immediatly think *Retreat*. This last year was no different in that the Society received three per cent less in contributions. Then I look at other revenues the Society receives. The WMS does not need to make any cuts in programs yet. Thus at Council 1999, delegates will be asked to approve the estimates for the year 2000 at the same level as this year. The Lord is faithful.

Let us go forward in faith.

This will be my last column. I thank you all for your faithfulness to the Society. I thank those who have given me encouragement. It has been a great responsibility in looking after the revenues and expenses for the Society. I trust I have made the right recommendations to all who needed to vote on decisions. As I leave, I commend to you, the new treasurer, Giollo Kelly.

Irene Nesbitt, Treasurer

IN THE SOCIETY

To all publicity secretaries:
You are encouraged to send in items for the "In the Society" column as soon as possible after the event.

If you have e-mail, please help to save *Glad Tidings* staff time and effort and send your item to: jstevens@presbyterian.ca. You are also encouraged to send items on disk which will be returned.

Please try to keep your news to about 200 words. Include only important information and innovative ideas. It is better for you to edit locally than to have the office decide.

Remember: we print EVERY item received although sometimes we do have to edit considerably.

The dealine for material is the first of the month, two months before publication i.e. January 1 for the March/April issue. Please keep this in mind when sending things in.

Knox Church, Stratford was host to the annual meeting of the **Huron Perth** Presbyterial on February 19 with the theme *New Beginnings - With God's Help.* Moncton members took care of registration and coffee. 61 were in attendance.

President Pat White called the meeting to order. Morning devotions were given by Jean Carey and Alice Gardner, from Cromarty. Mary Scott welcomed everyone on behalf of the Mary Martha and Gordon group. Dr. David Thompson welcomed everyone to Knox.

An In Memoriam service was conducted by Helen Dunseith of Harrington, with reading from John 5, lighting of a candle, silence and prayer.

Erin Crisfield, Area Staff, conducted a Bible study from Ecclesiastes. A candle was lit to remind everyone of new beginnings and that God is always with us.

Books were reviewed by Literature Secretary Bev Nichol.

Afternoon devotions were led by Eleanor Stevenson of Cranbrook. Jean Easton of Exeter Caven introduced guest speaker, Rev. Terry Hastings, of DaySpring Church, London. DaySpring is supported by *Presbyterians Sharing*.

The roll call was answered with a verse about new beginnings. Atwood groups presented a skit entitled "The Perfect Church". Erin Crisfield inducted the new officers. Courtesy remarks were given by Ruth Hart of Knox, North Easthope.

The 85th Annual Meeting of **London** Presbyterial was held at **Westmount Church, London** on January 21. Eighty members and guests attended. The theme for the year 1999 is "The Burning Bush - What is Happening in our Church Today?", with the day's topic being *Church Growth.*

The opening devotion "Partners in Dance" was given by women from Burns Mosa. Margaret Ford conducted an In Memoriam service.

President Jean Middleton presided over business, followed by Bible study led by Area Staff Erin Crisfield.

Following lunch, guest speaker June Stevenson, Editor of Glad Tidings, was introduced by Marion Weldon, Tempo. She spoke of her visits to other countries and encouraged members to look at growth in terms of quality as well as quantity.

June Stevenson installed the new executive. Dr. R. Robinson conducted the closing Service of Holy Communion.

The Annual Meeting of **Brockville** Presbyterial held in **Knox, Iroquois**, was presided over by Henny Donkersteeg with Fran Adams as pianist.

Devotions on the theme *Glorifying God* were led by the Ventnor group. A Bible Study on the same theme was conducted by Rev. Marion Johnston of Iroquois. Groups discussed how we glorify God through our gardens and compared our faith journey to tending gardens.

Myrna Van Beilan welcomed guests to her home church. Mary Moorhead, Vice-president of Council Executive brought greetings.

A panel, consisting of four local school principals and moderated by Mary Anna Petre, former school board member, discussed the topic of education.

Using a candlelight service Catherine Blatch paid tribute to members who had passed on. New officers were installed by Marion Johnston.

Fashioning Freedom was the theme of the Annual Meeting of **Sarnia** Presbyterial held in **St. Andrew's, Petrolia** on January 23. The host minister Rev. Laurence DeWolfe welcomed everyone.

The morning session was chaired by President Margaret McNeil. Marion Perrie installed the 1999 officers.

A workshop on the theme was presented in the afternoon by newly elected president Anna Jean McCoskery, assisted by Area Staff, Erin Crisfield. A fashion show modelled garments made in sweatshops in different countries including Canada.

WMS members were encouraged to write the government insisting on a task force aimed at working to end sweatshop abuses.

The 117th Annual Meeting of **Lindsay** Presbyterial was held January 27 at **Wick** Church. President Grace Jess constituted the meeting with prayer.

Rev. Dawn Griffiths welcomed everyone on behalf of the Wick WMS which is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 1999. Worship was conducted by members of Knox, Glenarm WMS, using the theme *Seeking, Following, Listening.*

The officers for 1999 were installed by Dawn Griffiths.

Following lunch, Lindsay WMS conducted the Memorial Service. Joan Snider introduced guest speaker Rev. Rodger Hunter, Boarding House Ministries, Toronto.

Courtesies were given by Joan Anderson of Cresswell, and a benediction by the President ended the day.

Edmonton Peace River Presbyterial held a Tea at **Westmount** Church on June 15, 1998 in honour of the following long-time, faithful members (above): Jean Anderson, Isabel McRae, Mia Winianowsky, Vi Bothamley, Heather Miller, Letha Mckee, Marjorie Scott, Virginia Pearson, Nell Dinwoodie, Kay Richards, Grace Findlay and Anne Rude. A short profile of each was given by their respective presidents. A rose was presented to each honoree.

The closing prayer was given by Norma Proudfoot.

Celebrate was the theme for the Annual Meeting of **Maitland** Presbyterial held in **Wingham**, Ontario on January 18. Shirley McCall opened with a poem and prayer. Rev. John Vaudry welcomed the women.

A worship service led by Wingham

WMS included a meditation on "A Journey in the Life of Christ".

Area Staff Erin Crisfield, Joan Laird and Marjorie Deyell led in a study about women in prayer.

Following reports in the afternoon, Lauralee Cayley spoke about her work with CGIT. Rev. Alice Wilson of Hanover brought greetings from Grey-Bruce Presbytery.

A singalong was led by Eileen Chambers and Katherine McDonald. Erin Crisfield installed the new officers.

The 85th Annual Meeting of **Glengarry** Presbyterial was held in **St. John's, Cornwall** on January 29. Sheila Paterson, President opened with words of welcome, a New Year's poem and prayer.

Worship, conducted by VanKleek WMS reflected the theme of the day *Rejoice in the Lord.* Barbara Ewing read the scripture. Muriel Belanger gave the meditation and Reta Power led in prayer.

Annie MacRae brought greetings from the host church and Lorna MacGregor brought greetings from Presbytery. Anne Blane spoke about her activities as Regional Staff.

Midway through the business, Sheila Paterson led some wake-up exercises. Dorothy Forrester sang a lovely solo. Following lunch, Liz Geddes and Lorna MacGregor led in a hymn sing.

Mackie Robertson, speaker, was introduced by Peg Ferguson. Mackie spent two and a half months last fall in Sierra Leone representing Canadian Foodgrains Bank. He was thanked by Ann O'Neill.

Liz paid tribute to the dedication and leadership within the Presbyterial by Barbara Ewing and Iva Bush. They were both named as Honorary Presidents.

Officers were installed by Annabel MacNaughton. The new President, Peg Ferguson, Lancaster, closed in prayer.

Peterborough Presbyterial Annual Meeting was held at **St. Paul's, Peterborough**, on January 30, 1999. The theme was *What does the Lord require?* A singalong was led by Jackie Kelly and Faye McMillan. Rev. George Turner of St. Paul's welcomed everyone. President Ada Chapman opened the meeting.

Lorna Teare, Synodical President, brought greetings. Worship was led by Holly Hall, Freda Eagleson, Hazel and Jean Larmer, all of Centreville. Arthur Marshall, accompanied by Elva Chamberland, sang three selections during the worship service.

Between the presentation of annual reports three current videos from church offices were viewed.

The afternoon session began with an In Memoriam service led Grace Dyer, Lakefield. The officers for 1999 were installed by Lorna Teare.

New President Joan Smith presented past President Ada Chapman, with an Honorary Life Membership pin and certificate.

Closing worship was led by the newly ordained, Rev. Lynda Reid. This was followed by Communion. Lynda was assisted by Elders Jean Coull, Jackie Kelly, Joan Lucas and Peggy McKay.

West Toronto Presbyterial held its 85th Annual Meeting on February 20 at **St. Giles, Kingsway**. President Beverley McWhinnie welcomed everyone and led opening worship. Devotions were given by Mildred Billington, followed by business.

Rev. Paulette Brown, minister of University Church, Toronto was guest speaker. She spoke about being both female and black in the church.

An Honorary membership was presented to Susan Norman by last year's recipient, Dorothy Hopper. The moderator John Morris, brought greetings from West

Toronto Presbytery.

Giollo Kelly, East Toronto Presbyterial, installed the officers for 1999. During lunch, Rev. Clive Irving, St. Giles, welcomed everyone. Dorothy Clark gave a brief presentation on a WMS meeting held in 1928.

The 85th Annual Meeting of **Westminster** Presbyterial was held February 17 at **Whalley** Church. President Barbara Marshall welcomed members and introduced Rev. Dr. Bobby Ogden who led in worship.

Using the theme *Fight and Flight*, he spoke on the story from Acts 12 of Peter's miraculous escape from prison and Rhoda's astonishment on hearing his voice.

The morning business meeting was followed with lunch prepared by the Whalley afternoon WMS.

A hymn sing was led by Betty Siverns and Bobby Ogden playing his guitar with Yvonne Calderwood at the piano. Margaret Walker led in a memorial service.

Rev. Allan Young and Jeanette Young (above) of the North Peace Territorial Ministries, guest speakers at the annual Calgary Macleod Presbyterial meeting held in April, pose with their new vehicle while in Calgary.

The afternoon guest speaker was Pauline Brown. In her colourful sari she gave an interesting talk on her life and work in India.

The 1999 officers were installed by Rev. Elizabeth McLagan.

Two Honorary Presidents, Annabelle Ovens and Phyllis Brand were recognized at the **Niagara** Presbyterial Annual Meeting on January 27, 1999 in St. Andrew's, Welland. These members have given sterling leadership in the past and it was a pleasure to honour them.

LOCAL

St. John's Auxiliary, White Rock, BC, met December 8, 1998, to participate in what has become an annual event: filling decorated coffee tins with home-made cookies. These were delivered by group members to the elderly and shut-ins of St. John's Church. More than fifty cans were filled.

Following a business meeting the women assembled in the sanctuary for a Christmas worship service, using the November/December *Glad Tidings*. President Arlene Duff led the service with Mary Beazley at the piano.

The March meeting of the **Grace Stewart** WMS, St. Columba Church in **Vancouver**, featured the showing of a video, "Down Mexico Way." This video was prepared by Rev. Iris Ford and Dorothy Thompson during their trip to Mexico last year.

It featured their visit to a small Mexican Village where a large number of handicapped children are in need of wheelchairs, crutches and other prosthetic devices, also surgery, dental care etc. The Association that is promoting this help is Ninos Incapacitados Del Lago. Iris and Dorothy hope that showing this video will prompt donations to help keep this organization doing their important work.

In appreciation of their steadfast, faithful WMS service, sisters-in-law Jean Fryfogel (left) and Christina Fryfogel (right), above, were presented with Honorary Memberships. The presentation was made by their friends and fellow members at the Sunday morning service November 15, 1998 at **Knox, North Easthope**. Guest speaker for the happy occasion was Rev. David Smith, Evangel Hall.

Jean Dancey, member of the WMS Council Executive and of the **Lawrie Cormack** WMS of **Knox, Oshawa**, received an Honorary Life Membership certificate and pin on December 8 at the Christmas dinner meeting of the group.

The pin belonged to Jean's mother, Mrs. J. A. MacInnis, who had received it from the WMS in First Presbyterian in 1924 where her father, Dr. D. G. McQueen, was minister.

Mrs. MacInnis received the Honorary bar from the WMS in Orillia Presbyterian Church in 1961 where her husband was minister.

Pictured right are Jean (centre) with her sisters, Kay Pentland from Windsor (left), and Mary MacInnis from Kingston (right) presenting the certificate and pin in memory of their parents.

Sooke WMS was delighted to be instrumental in bringing Pauline Brown to speak

at morning worship on February 21. Pauline then spoke at **St. Columba, Parksville, BC** the next evening. Pauline was home on deputation from India. The photo (above) was taken by Amy Chwojka.

At the Christmas meeting of **St. Andrew's, Barrie**, a Life Membership certificate and pin were presented to outgoing President Myra McFarlane. Myra is now serving as Vice-President of Barrie Presbyterial.

St. Andrew's WMS, **Carleton Place**, Ontario are very proud that on their Mission Sunday, a special envelope was circulated to the congregation, which along with offering from the Christmas Eve Service totalled $1,272.88.

This amount was sent to Presbyterian World Service and Development for Central American Hurricane Relief.

Rev. Ron Sharpe, (second from right) minister of **St. Andrew's, Welland**, and hostess for the day, Margaret Hicks (left), are pictured with guests at their recent Mission Sunday, Nan and Hubert Budding.

Annie Lusk

Gaye Donovan

Annie E. Lusk passed away on Christmas Day at the age of 83. Annie was active in St. Andrew's, Penticton, BC as an Elder, President of the Ladies Guild, the Board of Managers, and the WMS, serving as Secretary and President over the years.

Born in Oakville, Manitoba, Annie taught in many country schools in Manitoba.

After marrying Walter Lusk in 1941, she lived on a farm in Portage La Prairie until moving to Penticton in 1965. Surviving relatives came from Victoria, Vancouver and Edmonton for her memorial service.

Anna Gaye (Collins) Donovan passed away November 5, 1998 as a result of cancer. Gaye will be remembered for her care and concern for all who were fortunate to know her and for her love of gardening.

Gaye was born in Taihape, New Zealand. In 1955 she came to Saskatchewan and was employed by the Indian Health Services at Mistawasis, Sandy Lake and Pelican Narrows.

Gaye returned to New Zealand in 1957 to work with the Maoris. In 1960 she married Rev. Walter Donovan. Together they served among native peoples and in several charges in the west.

Gaye was an encourager of all, helping young people develop musical skills and appreciation. Her gift of music in church choirs and Presbyterial events will be sadly missed.

She was very active in the WMS, in local groups, Presbyterial and the Saskatchewan Core Committee.

Gaye is survived by husband Walter, daughters Rev. Lynne Donovan (Phil Norton) and Anna-Marie (David Black), sons Kerry and Andrew, one grandson and one granddaughter.

A celebration of her life was held at St. Andrew's, Saskatoon on Novemember 14.

Rev. Dr. **Ronald Balsdon**, minister of **Knox, Sooke**, BC was presented with a Life Membership by the WMS in Sooke in October 1998. Rev. Baldson passed away on January 4, 1999.

Thornhill Presbyterian Church lost two faithful members recently. On January 31 **Kathleen Barbara Wade**, wife of the late Rev. Dr. Donald B. Wade, died. Kathleen is

survived by daughters Virginia Maxwell, Nancy Heath and Joyce Wade, and several grandchildren.

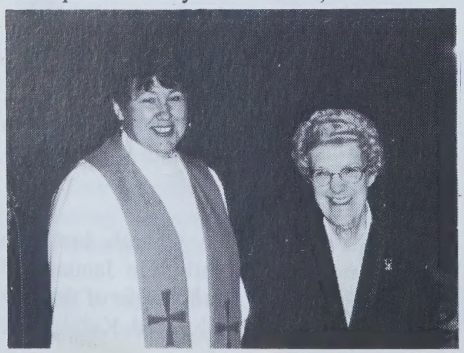
Agnes (Nan) Stevenson passed away peacefully on February 22. Nan is survived by daughter Diane (Duncan MacDonald), her children Andrew, Laurie and Christine Kizik, and son Neville (Audrey) and his children Laura and Lawrence. Nan was mother-in-law to June Stevenson. Rev. Bob Smith conducted the funeral on February 26 in Thornhill.

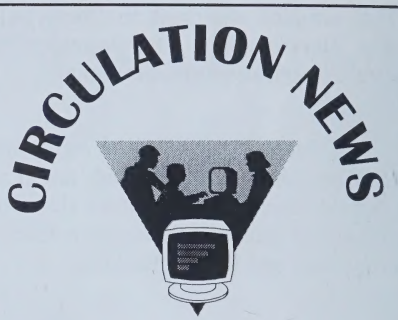
St. Timothy's, Ottawa, recently donated an "In Memoriam" gift to the Women's Missionary Society in memory of Gladys McQueen.

Pictured below are Dorothy Thomas (right), **St. Paul's, Port Hope** and Rev. Margaret Robertson, Program Secretary for the Women's Missionary Society. Dorothy, who has been a faithful worker in the WMS group at St. Paul's for many years, celebrated her 90th birthday. She was presented with an Honorary Life Membership certificate.

Dorothy seldom misses a meeting of the Annie Purves Group and regularly visits shut-ins. She is a member of the Women's Association, was a member of the choir for over 50 years and taught Sunday School.

Margaret made the presentation at the Fall Thankoffering of the Annie Purves Group on Sunday October 25, 1998.





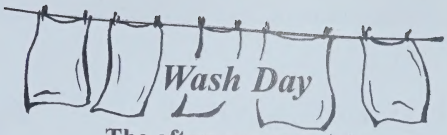
We will soon be updating the list of Glad Tidings Secretaries. If a new Glad Tidings secretary/contact person has been elected since last fall, please let us know by the beginning of July. This will save us from having to resend the materials. Please remember to forward this information to the Glad Tidings circulation office no later than the beginning of July. Please include the name of the congregation and the group number when corresponding.

According to *The Address Manager*, a newsletter from Canada Post, there seems to be some confusion about the use of PO Box in rural areas especially where Group Mailboxes are used. In rural areas, the word "box" is used two ways: the mail is delivered to a customer-owned receptable at the end of a laneway, on a rural route; and Group Mailboxes (Site, Box, Compartment).

Since PO Box means Post Office, for the purpose of accuracy, it is suggested that those in the Rural Route delivery points can use the term Box but not to use PO Box. Any subscribers who have a rural route address that includes a group mailbox, should check their labels to ensure that PO Box is not present. If you have any questions about this please call me at 1-800-619-7301.

Katherine Allen
Circulation Manager

Hetty Law, **Varsity Acres** Presbyterian Women, receiving a life membership certificate and pin from the WMS. Presented by Presbyterian Women's president, Marg Befus, at their September meeting.



The afternoon sun stole
leapingly across the window sill.
It glittered on a glass vase nearby.
The flowers in the garden
danced in the wind.
And the wind whistling
through the trees
bounced the now white sheets
on the clothesline
Wash day not
threatened by rain.

Maureen Kowal

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. Jessie Sproat
St. Andrew's, Beamsville, ON

Mrs. Irene Weir
St. Andrew's, Belleville, ON

Mrs. Margaret Brown
Mrs. Emma Corbett
Mrs. Audrey Donovan
First, Brockville, ON

Mrs Mary Yuill
Melville, Brussels, ON

Mrs. Dorothy E. Palmer
St. Giles, Calgary, AB

Ethel Barr
Elizabeth McMath
First, Chatham, ON

Sarah A. Carruthers
St. Andrew's, Cobourg, ON

Mrs. Marion Burman
Embro, ON

Margaret Mary Alexander
St. Andrew's, Fort Erie, ON
(former member of Council Executive)

Doris Polk
St. Andrew's, Kingston, ON

Pearl Crowell
Strathcona Park, Kingston, ON

Mrs. Evelyn Little
Lucknow, ON

Mrs. Helen (George) Harrold
Chippawa, Niagara Falls, ON

Mrs. Ethel Gray
Knox, Ottawa, ON

Mrs. Margaret G. Taggart
St. Andrew's, Ottawa, ON

Annie E. Lusk
St. Andrew's, Penticton, BC

Joyce Barbara Sine
St. John's, Port Perry, ON

Gaye Donovan
St. Andrew's, Saskatoon, SK
(wife of Rev. Walter Donovan)

Rev. Dr. Ronald Balsdon
Doreen Richardson,
Knox, Sooke, BC

Mrs. Marjorie Doll,
St. Andrew's, Southampton, ON

Mrs. Flora Buie
Miss Lydia Small
Jubilee, Stayner, ON

Agnes (Nan) Sneddon Stevenson
Kathleen Barbara Wade
(wife of the late Rev. Dr. Donald B. Wade)
Thornhill, ON

Miss Nellie MacLean
Glebe, Toronto, ON

Mrs. Eleanor Gifford
Mrs. Ruby Wilson
St. Andrew's Chalmers, Uxbridge, ON

Mrs. Peggy Clark
Mrs. Eileen Piper
Willowdale, ON

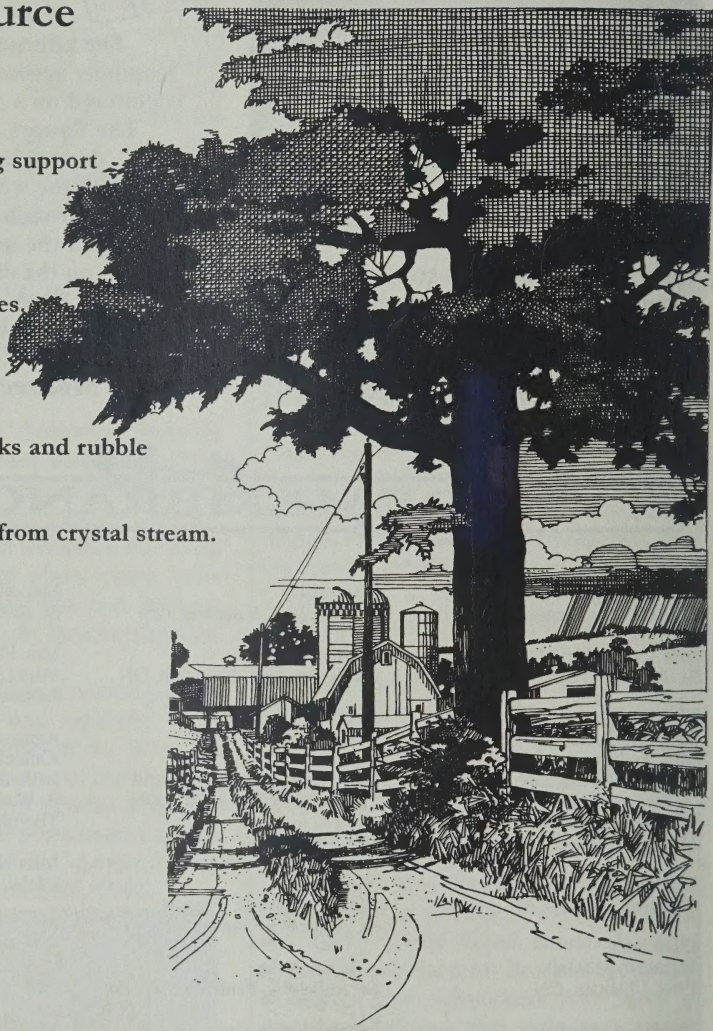
Unseen source

May this tree grow
straight
tall
its trunk give strong support
to limbs
raised
high
to you
a symphony of leaves.

May its roots grow
deeper
down
through surface rocks and rubble
drawn to search
for unseen springs
to quench its thirst from crystal stream.

May it withstand
drought of summer
frosted wind
weight of winter
may your life
forever flow
from deep within.

Gwyneth Bell



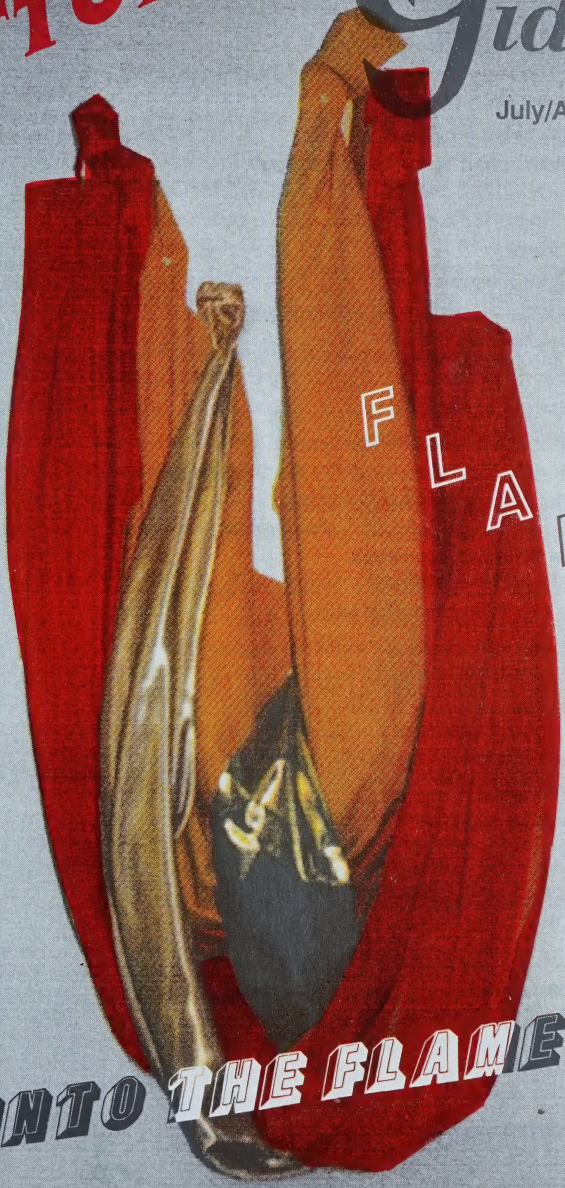
Glad Tidings is printed
on recycled paper

Please report any errors/changes in address.

HOT STUFF

Glad Tidings

July/August 1999



FLAMES

INTO THE FLAMES

Contents

Features

4 **Message from the Moderator** ..... *by Rev. William J. Klempa*

5 **Council '99 - Into the Flames**

11 **WMS Estimates for 2000**

12 **Do All Paths Lead To The Mountaintop?** ..... *by G. Allan Connor*

14 **A Little Prayer for You - a poem** ..... *by Linda King*

15 **Open Graves** ..... *by Peggy White*

16 **A True Friend - a poem** ..... *by Richard W. Unger*

17 **WMS Gift Reaches Ukraine - *Sixty Years Later!***

19 **Teens Pre-Teens - a poem** .. *by Rupert H.D. Westmaas*

20 **Our Pot of Gold** ..... *by Gail Northgrave*

21 **The Cottage - a poem** ..... *by Maureen Kowal*

22 **1999-2000 Study Resources**

23 **A poem** ..... *by Barbara Mitchell*

24 **Program: Into the Flames: Hot Stuff** ..... *by Margaret Robertson*

27 **Honorary Memberships 1998**
Certificate of Recognition

48 **Officers and Executive Members**

Regulars

3 **Written in Love**

11 **Forward in Faith**

28 **Books/Resources**

29 ***"I"*-Witness**

30 **Mission in Action -** *Barrie, Geddes, Allison, Vanderzweerde, Kmecz*

37 **News**

39 **Our Readers Write**

39 **Seniors on the Go** ..... *by Norma Tomlinson*

40 **In the Society**

46 **Circulation News**

47 **In Remembrance**

Glad Tidings

July/August 1999
Volume 75 No.4

EDITOR:
L. JUNE STEVENSON
CIRCULATION MANAGER:
KATHERINE ALLEN

Published six times a year by the Women's Missionary Society, W.D. of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, 50 Wynford Drive, North York, Ont. M3C 1J7. Tel. 1 (416) 441-1111. Fax 1 (416) 441-2825. Publications mail registration number 09517. ISSN: 00170720.

Member of the Canadian Church Press and the Associated Church Press.

Subscription rate for 1998 $10.00 including G.S.T. per year. Single copies $1.70. W.M.S. members should send their subscriptions through their group Glad Tidings Secretary. Individual subscribers may order direct from Glad Tidings. Please make all money orders and cheques payable at par to Glad Tidings.

GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

Inside: Council '99

Written in Love

L. June Stevenson, Editor

June, 1999

***Not so Frail as Summer's Flowers*!**

Inside the conference hall the first warm days of spring began to make the delegates uncomfortable until the air conditioning finally kicked in. Outside, the scourge of gardeners, the lowly dandelion was already taking over the lawns of Crieff Hills, bold as ever and just as obnoxious.

It's funny how after the showers of April, the first flowers of May are dandelions. Jumping the gun on all the rest of summer's blooms, they seem intent on being not only the first but the fiercest in their race to overtake the grass before it has a chance to grow.

Most children have hurried to pick the first blooms and, with hands sticky from the milk oozing from the stems, present a handful of them to their mothers. And every little girl, at least in my childhood days, spent happy hours in the garden, making dandelion chains to wind around wrists and neck, spring's finest jewelry, fashioned from nature's sturdiest weeds.

Nothing was ever more fun than picking the stems when the thick yellow flowers had turned to wisps of summer's ghosts, like blonde women whose hair turns white overnight. Freeing the seeds from their sockets to float and drift on the summer breeze, and finally come to rest in their winter home, where they will lie dormant until next spring.

Rev. Suh, Jungsoon, newly arrived from Japan, commented on the dandelions. They are the same in Japan, she said. They were a fitting symbol to the work of the Women's Missionary Society, gathered for its Annual Council Meeting. Like the dandelions, she observed, women are strong. Their work spreads and survives anywhere.

Rev. John Congram commended the Society for its dedicated emphasis on mission through the years, and its leadership training of women. The Society confirmed its focus on education as a priority for the coming years.

The words of the hymn, *Frail as summer's flowers we flourish; blows the wind and it is gone*, came to mind. Our lives are frail, and our days are numbered like the blades of grass. But the spirit and the will to *go and tell* the story persists and endures long after individuals pass on. What better symbol than the dandelion to which to compare the work of faithful men and women. It's a sure thing - survival guaranteed!!

Message from the Moderator: Rev. William J. Klempa

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church and I am pleased to bring you greetings from presbyterials and WMS groups that Lois and I have had the privilege of attending and addressing during the moderatorial year. To these greetings I add those of so many congregations that we have visited from Prince Edward Island to Vancouver Island as well as congregations in Hungary and the Ukraine and in Kenya and Malawi.

On behalf of the national church I want to commend the excellent work and witness of the Women's Missionary Society. Your Society has a long and rich history of faithful service. The WMS has kept the cause of mission, its importance and urgency before the whole Church. It has engaged in bible study, the study of our missionary work and it has been a society of worship and prayer. The national Church is exceedingly grateful for your inestimable contribution in so many ways to the cause of Christ's gospel.

Mission will be the first focus of the Flames Initiative Programme from June, 1999 to June, 2000. I trust that the WMS will make a major contribution as we launch the program and make mission our primary focus.

As we celebrate the 2000th year of Christ's birth, the 125th anniversary of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and declare 2000 the Year of the Jubilee may the Women's Missionary Society go from strength to strength. I believe that by God's grace as a Church we are well-positioned to enter the Third Millennium with confidence, strength and hope and to grow both intensively and extensively during the next century. Our rich heritage of Presbyterian theology and polity is needed on the Canadian scene.

I pray that God may strengthen you, the Holy Spirit guide you and Christ be with you as you meet together, deliberate and make decisions affecting the life and work of your Society and of the national Church. God's richest blessing.

Sincerely,

Bill Klempa,

Moderator of the 124th General Assembly
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Dr. Klempa's message was sent to the Annual Council Meeting held May 2-5, 1999.

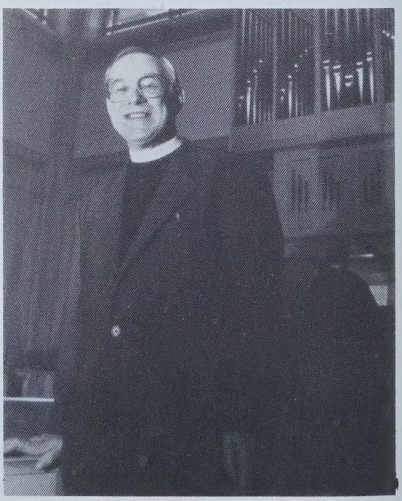


Photo by Phil Norton

Dr. William Klempa

Opening

Delegates, visitors and staff were welcomed at Crieff Hills Community on a sunny May afternoon. Following registration and dinner, everyone gathered in the Conference Hall where most of the meetings were held.

A questionnaire and game on *Hot Topics, Warm Memories* enabled table groups to get acquainted quickly. Erin Crisfield, Regional Staff for Southwestern Ontario Synod/Synodical led these activities.

Margaret Robertson, WMS Program Secretary then introduced a group from Bowmanville who delighted everyone with a hilarious fashion show. "Fashions in the Bible" portrayed various women beginning with Eve. Eve's plain white robe was decorated with vine leaves while several "fake" serpents wound themselves around her body. She carried a basket of apples.

The women who followed Eve included among others, Noah's wife, complete with rainwear and "poop scoop", Salome carrying John the Baptist's head on a platter, and Abraham's aging wife Sarah, who hobbled in, cane in one hand and a teddy bear in the other. Sarah modeled the latest in maternity wear for seniors.

The video *Fanning the Flames*, about the PCC FLAMES Iniative, available from the Celebrate office was shown. Margaret Robertson concluded the evening with a worship on *Hot Stuff*!

A cake made and decorated by Brenda Patterson was decorated with flames and the Council theme.

Morning Worship and Study

Rev. John Congram, Editor of the Presbyterian Record led in worship and study on the three mornings. His theme was *Natural Growth* from the book *Natural Church Development: How your*

congregation can develop the eight essential qualities of a healthy church by Christian A. Schwarz published by The International Centre for Leadership Development and Evangelism, British Columbia.

The eight characteristics of natural growth are *Empowering leadership, Gift - oriented ministry, Passionate spirituality, Functional structures, Inspiring worship service, Holistic small groups, Need-oriented evangelism, and Loving relationships.*

John commended the WMS for keeping mission alive in the churches through the years, for its concern for children and youth, and for preparing women in leadership roles.

Delegates were involved through true/false questions in looking at what characteristics are essential if groups and congregations are to grow.

"It is easier to be a pioneer in a new group than a homesteader in an established group", John said, referring to the fact that sometimes it is easier to start a new group than to expect to expand an already established group.

Delegates learned that quality is more important than numbers, and that not every Christian is an evangelist. God has given that gift to only some Christians.

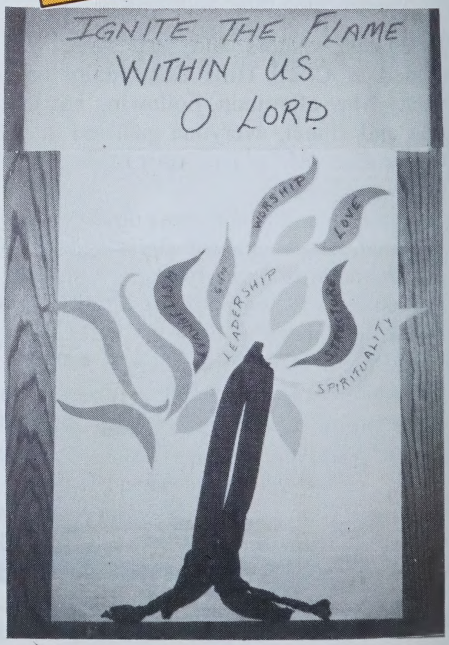
It was a time of learning, sharing and reflecting on ways to encourage growth in groups and congregations.

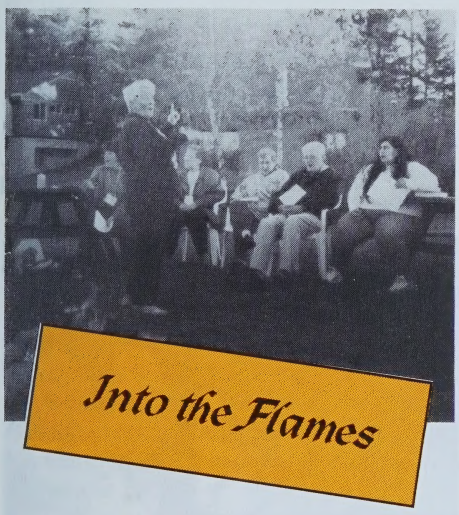
Retiring Officers

Joanne Instance was recognized for her long service on Council. Joanne was unable to attend due to the illness and subsequent death of her husband Fred.

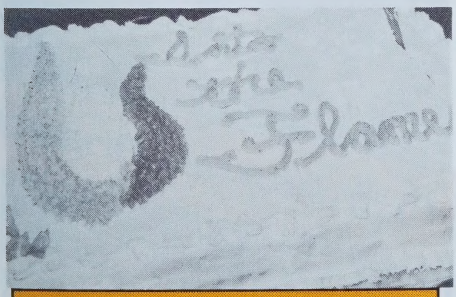
Irene Nesbitt was commended for her dedicated service as Treasurer. In lieu of gifts, retiring members were presented with a certificate and a donation was given

Hot Stuff





Into the Flames



Council Photos by Katherine Allen, Charlotte Brown, Margaret Robertson and June Stevenson

in their names to the New Life Centre in Thailand, for rehabilitation of girls sold into prostitution.

Special Presentation Boarding Homes Ministry (Canada)

Rev. Rodger Hunter spoke with quiet passion on the ministry he developed two years ago. Rodger has five teams now to serve in 450 boarding houses in Toronto.

Among the residents are those rejected by their families through ilness and age. Most experience isolation and loneliness.

Rodger is developing materials to enable others to set up similar programs across the country.

Offering

The Council offering in the amount of $784.40 went to the work of Boarding Homes Ministry.

Journey to Wholeness

Kelly Lee Shapiro who has worked at Flora House since 1994, and was convenor of "Journey to Wholeness" until January 1999, spoke about the campaign. So far $110,000 has been raised towards the goal of $250,000 by April 2000.

Kelly Lee described herself as a product of the residential school system, her mother having been placed there at age five. Many native persons were alienated from their families and grew up lacking parenting skills. This is one of the areas that will be addressed through the Journey to Wholeness fund. Both natives and non-Natives are part of the process of healing and reconciliation.

Focus on the Future

The Five-Year Plan is completed with this Council meeting. Convenor Bernice Shih asked that people list what has been accomplished in their area. Small paper flames were posted on the walls with the many accomplishments.

Priorities for the Future

Following a "visioning" day in November 1998, the Council Executive chose the following priorities at its meeting in February:

- *Promotion of the WMS including a national WMS/AMS mission awareness Sunday*
- *Finance*
- *Education*

Mission Study 1999-2000:

Sharing in God's Mission: A Study of the Covenant of Partnership between The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba

June Stevenson, Editor of Glad Tidings and author of the PCC adult and children's study materials for 1999-2000, organized an evening to introduce the materials.

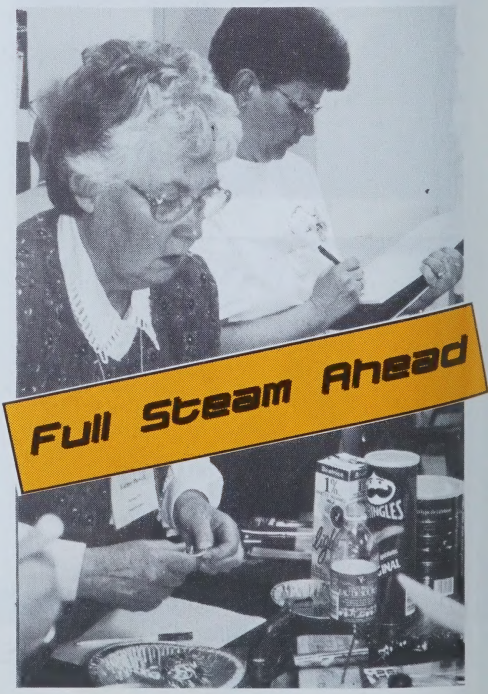
June spoke briefly of her visit to Cuba in October 1997. Janice Carter, Editor of the Presyterian Message and June were hosted by the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba as part of the E. H. Johnston Exchange Program.

Groups took turns at four study centres: Resources, Map Work, Making Musical Instruments, and Artefacts and Foods. A crossword puzzle assisted individuals with this learning experience.

Following worship, the group sang "May the God of Hope" (Dios de la esperanza) accompanied with tambourines, maracas and drums they had made.

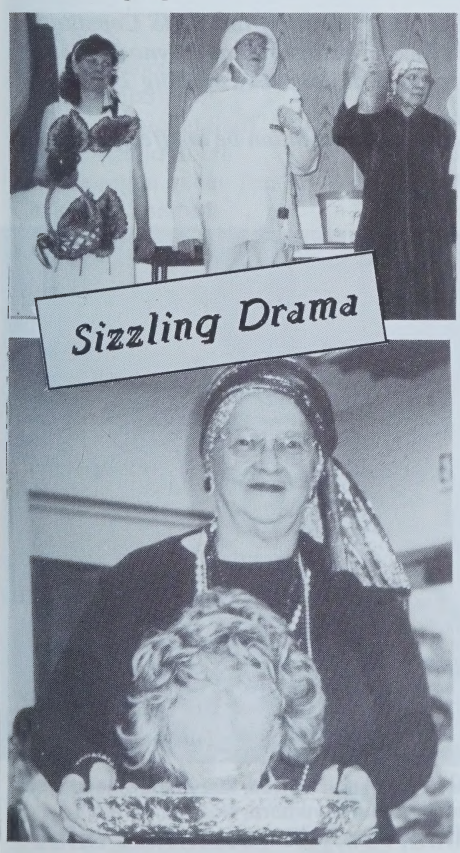
Special Guests

Delegates were delighted to have as special guest Mercy Chilapula, Coordinator for the Women's Desk of Blantyre Synod, Malawi. Mercy brought along her five-month-old son Andrew.



The Women's Guild of Blantyre Synod was formed by wives of the missionaries and now has a membership of 30,000. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1998. Women in Blantyre Synod are trained to work at all levels in the church, however few women are ordained as elders and none as ministers.

Rev. Suh, Jungsoon, National Church Women's Association, Korean Christian Church in Japan, brought greetings from Japan. Rev. Suh had been to a consultation in Winnipeg with aboriginal peoples of Canada, representatives from the KCCJ, Koreans from Canada and Korea, and Taiwanese people.



Covenant Community with Children and Youth

Dorothy Henderson spoke of the need to integrate children into the whole congregation and to involve them in worship. Over the past ten years Church School membership has declined by 5,000. Dorothy reminded delegates how many adults were inspired in their faith by participating in "mountain-top" experiences as young people.

Into the Fire!

The perfect early evening weather drew everyone outside to a bonfire and time of celebrating the achievements of the Five-Year Plan, and of looking towards the future.

Everyone had a piece of paper on which they wrote at least one hope for the future, then placed it in the fire. The smoke, rising heavenward, lifted our prayers to God.

Canada Youth 2000

Spencer Edwards and Jenn Geddes introduced Canada 2000 for youth, 15 years and older, being planned for July 4-9, 2000 at Brock University, St. Catherines.

Closing Communion

John Congram assigned various groups to prepare different sections of the closing worship.

The women tackled this challenge creatively. The scripture Luke 24:13-35, The Emmaus Road, was dramatized by one group. John gave the meditation and served communion.

Check out the CANADA YOUTH 2000 web site at www.presbycan.ca/cy2000

Motions

WMS Name Change

By a vote of 35 to 11, it was decided that there will be no change to the name of the Society. The Glad Tidings will also remain the same.

Among the other motions, the following were passed:

- that a recommendation for an annual WMS/AMS Awareness Sunday to be held the last Sunday in April (with the exception of the years Easter falls on that date, then it would be the first Sunday in May) be included in the WMS report to the 125th General Assembly.

- that a task force to be appointed by Council Executive be set up to research how WMS givings should be allocated for local and national missions and that their report be received at the spring Council Executive meeting in 2001.

- that a task force be appointed by Council Executive to review the WMS Constitution and Bylaws in the light of current changes in local, Presbyterial and Synodical structures and their report be received at the spring Council Executive meeting 2001.

- that the top three priorities, Promotion, Finance and Education be in effect for a period of three years.

Pictured are some of the 1999 Council Executive: l to r Esther Powell, Mary Moorehead, Jean Rankine, Giolio Kelly, Shirley Barnhart, Jean Dancey, Fleur Eenkhorn, Noreen Marshall, Florence Ross, Margaret Reynolds, Jean Edmunds, Dineke Kraay.

WMS ESTIMATES FOR 2000

MISSION EDUCATION	
Salaries	$275,000
Benefits	37,000
Health/Dental	12,500
Travel exp/deputation	10,000
Program expenses	2,500
Glad Tidings	10,000
Training events	1,000
Overseas Travel	2,000
Resources - staff	400
	$350,400

GRANTS	
Life & Mission Agency	
Mission	150,000
Regional Staff	390,000
Child/Youth	10,000
Outside organ. mem. fees	3,000
Christian Literature	10,000
	$563,000

ADMINISTRATION	
Salaries	$37,000
Benefits	6,000
Health/Dental	2,000
President's expenses	4,000
Annual Council Meeting	28,000
Annual reports	5,500
Executive/Com Expenses	12,000
General contingency	1,000
Life membership/youth pins	2,500
Office equipment	10,000
Office expenses	17,000
Audit/Legal fees	10,000
Insurance/taxes	4,200
Continuing education	3,000
Consultative travel/reg. Staff	12,000
	$154,200

Total Estimates - $1,067,600

ESTIMATES ACCEPTED

Council delegates accepted the motion that the estimates for 2000 be accepted in the amount of $1,067,600 with the following grants to Presbyterians Sharing - The Presbyterian Church in Canada:

Mission	$150,000
Regional staff	390,000
Children/youth work	10,000

Forward in Faith

As I take up my duties as Treasurer of the WMS Council Executive, I would like to express my appreciation to Irene Nesbitt for her dedicated service as Treasurer for the past four years.

Irene made herself very knowledgeable about finances. It will take a while for me to acquire a comparable knowledge. I request your patience.

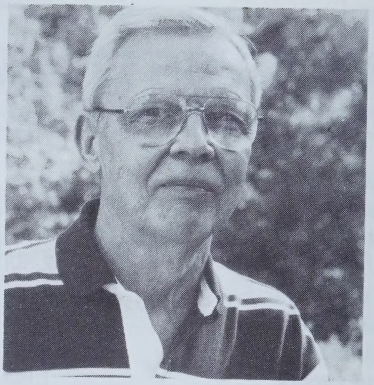
At our recent Council Meeting, the estimates for the year 2000 in the amount of $1,067,600 were approved. This figure is approximately the same as was approved for the years 1998 and 1999. Our grants to the Life and Mission Agency for support of Mission and Regional Staff remain the same as this year, so that the percentage of our budget for Mission Education, Administration and Grants varies only slightly from 1999, i.e. 32.82%, 14.44% and 54.14% respectively.

We trust that our Synodical givings, which recently have been slipping, will show an upward trend this year.

Giollo Kelly, Treasurer

Do All Paths Lead To The Mountaintop?

Former United Church missionary to the Bhil field challenges us today to answer Jesus' question: "Who do you say I am?"



- G. Allan Connor

Three of the Gospel writers record an incident that occurred in the region of Caesarea Philippi on the far northern border of Jewish territory. Jesus had led his disciples to a place that in Old Testament times was known for its worship of the Canaanite god Baal and in Christ's time was renowned for its shrine to the Greek god Pan. There, in a pagan environment, the Master asked his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?'

The apostles answered, 'Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' The crowds had indeed recognized something unusual about this teacher. Still, their understanding fell short. So Jesus turned from the popular view to challenge his closest friends. ''But what about you?' he asked. 'Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter, speaking for the group, replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' They had discovered the truth through revelation.

After Jesus' resurrection, eleven of those same men went out in obedience to their Lord's command to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Revelation prompted action.

Jesus asks the same question today. History repeats itself. The world replies, 'a great teacher, a righteous man, a prophet,' showing the same incomprehension. Then he confronts us, his modern disciples: 'But what about you? Who do you say I am?'

Now there is confusion even in the church. A few have gone so far as to doubt Christ's divinity. Others aren't sure he is the only way to God. 'What about sincere worshippers in other religions?' they question. 'Don't all paths lead to the mountaintop? Let's not be narrow minded!'

So uncertainty grips many Christians causing them to shun a lifestyle of caring evangelism. Are we among them?

In 1879, Dr. John Buchanan, a medical doctor and later Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, went to India and brought the Gospel along with his healing skills to the Bhils of central India, establishing a work that continues to this day. A glimpse of the tribal religion this pioneer missionary found will help vindicate his efforts and validate Christ's claim to be 'the way and the truth and the life.' It may also provide us with renewed reason to share the Glad Tidings with others.

The Bhils are animists - spirit worshippers. But when we use the word worship, we need to qualify it, since Christians have a distinctly different idea about the

'Worship' as applied to the Bhils is not the Christian idea of a child drawing close to a loving parent but rather of one whose heart is filled with fear and a desire to get rid of the injurious but very real demonic spiritual forces.

meaning of the word.

In our worship, we think of all God is: Christ Jesus becoming man, going about doing good, feeding the hungry, healing the sick and performing life-giving miracles. We remember his agony and his suffering on the cross where he was 'pierced for our transgressions' and 'crushed for our iniquities.' We think of the resurrection morning and the meeting with his disciples, how he opened the Scriptures for them to understand the great purpose for which he had left his Father's home and how he graciously gave into their hands the very work that he came to do. We consider his ascension to heaven to prepare a place for us. So we love and adore him. This is the Christian's idea of worship.

When we say that the Bhils worship spirits, how different that idea is. These aboriginal people have a vague idea of one God and when questioned will respond, 'He is great and good, but he is far away and takes no interest in such people as us.' But evil spirits, they believe, are everywhere, about to do injury. Their idea is to try and satisfy and divert not a God but a devil.

They consider spirits very spiteful when angered, destroying fields of grain, bringing diseases to their cattle, and disease and death to their families. So the term 'worship' as applied to the Bhils is not the Christian idea of a child drawing close to a loving parent but rather of one whose heart is filled with fear and a desire to get rid of the injurious but very real demonic spiritual forces.

The aboriginals have many devices by which they try to appease spirits. They offer fowl or goats as sacrifices, substitute cruel personal suffering, or in some cases, try to outwit them and so be left alone.

The Bhils also believe that after death, the spirits of men, particularly men of influence and strength, are wandering about and capable of doing great injury. There are groves, at least one in every village, that are considered sacred and will not be interfered with by anyone lest these spirits, being angry, bring trouble on the community. While the Bhils do not worship their ancestor's spirits, they are very careful to keep them from becoming revengeful and destructive. The attributes that Christians apply to Satan are the very attributes Bhils fear may be brought out of these disembodied souls.

We can easily understand then that the cross appeals. The tribal people apprehend and appreciate the biblical teaching that Jesus, who knew no sin, was made a curse for us so that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

That same cross, turning our eyes toward a suffering Savior, is not only the cornerstone upon which Christian faith rests but also the fundamental and unique feature that sets Christianity apart from other religions.

Who then do we say Jesus is? If we agree with Peter's affirmation that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and that salvation depends on him alone, let us be about our Master's business. Let us obey

Jesus' command and share the good news with others, whether they be people of the third world, fellow Canadians, citizens of our own town, or neighbors across the backyard fence.

- G. Allan Connor served as an agricultural missionary with the United Church of Canada on the central India field from 1954-64. During the latter part of that term, he and his wife lived in Banswara, Rajasthan where they got to know the Bhils.

Soon after Allan's arrival in India, he discovered that he was a Christian without a relationship with Christ. "God graciously led me to a place of personal faith during a bout with polio. Many revelations followed," he says of his experience. "I wrote my story in a (so far) unpublished book called, 'Dancing On The Floor Of Heaven.' The article, 'Do All Paths ...' is adapted from that book." Allan used Dr. Buchanan's book "Jungle Tales" in researching this article.

After India, Allan worked for the Nova Scotia Dept. of Agriculture and Marketing as Special Projects Officer in rural development and other areas. He also served briefly in Ghana, as Adult Education Cooperant with the Canadian International Development Agency.

Allan is a freelance writer who lives in Cobourg.

A Little Prayer for You

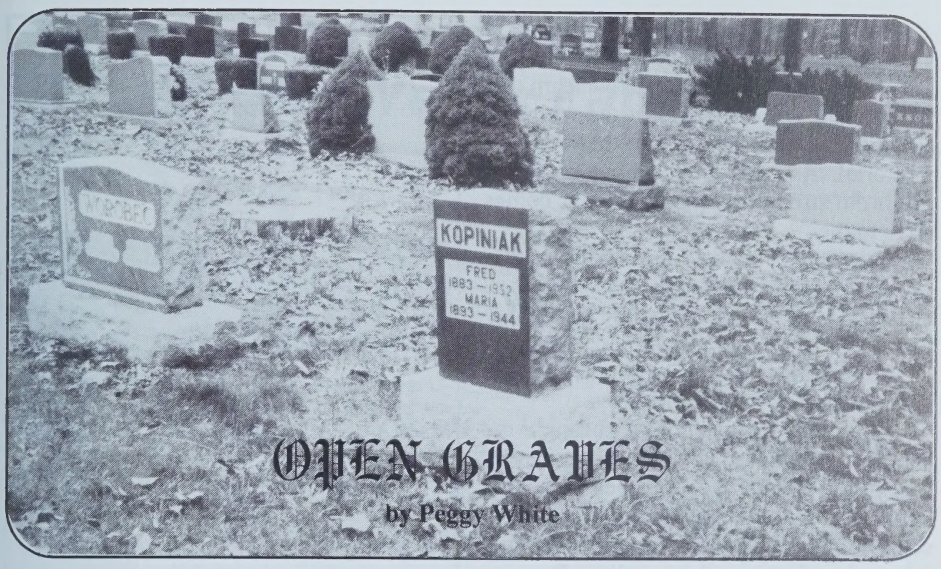
I'll say a little prayer for you
As you settle down tonight
That God will guard and guide
You 'til the morning light,

And as you rest, may all your dreams
Be gentle, calm and sweet:
Sleep deeply beautiful dreamer
For, with morning a new day we greet.

And as the night dreams fade
And rest comes gently on -
May the moonbeams kiss you softly
As the night slowly slides to dawn.

I'm sending this little prayer for you
On the wings of the Holy Spirit
And although it is a silent prayer
I know the Lord will hear it.

Linda King



OPEN GRAVES

by Peggy White

My grandfather's body lies beneath this square, cold stone. I didn't know him. He died one year before I was born, but I have stared at pictures of him in our backyard. He gazes at the camera with large, calloused hands folded neatly in his lap. He is primped in his Sunday best; a dark suit, white shirt and long black tie. Sometimes I wonder what he would have thought of me.

His was the brave generation of long ship voyages and immigration. He brought his Ukrainian Greek Orthodox faith with him and quickly married, farmed this new land and produced a family of ten sons. His skills as a farmer kept his family and neighbours fed during the years of the depression, often spilling surplus milk into a ditch, but he was unable to clothe such a large family.

My roots as a Presbyterian start at this time in history. Even then, or should I say especially then, our ministers were an ever resourceful group. One evening, the Presbyterian minister walked the mile from the church to my grandfather's farm with a growling stomach, woolen garments to protect against the cold winter wind and the needs of his congregation on his mind.

As I'm told, a deal was struck. My grandfather would supply the congregation with milk and food and in return the church would supply clothing for his large, growing family. I wish I could have been there to listen to their conversation. There must have been more to this story because since that time my grandfather brought all his family to worship in the Presbyterian Church. His great grandson is presently a Sunday School teacher there.

As I stand staring at the cold stone that bears his dates of birth and demise, I have so many questions I would like to ask. We were not given the time to know and love one another. The cemetery contains many headstones of varied colours and shapes. I can see only one other person walking through this aura that feels heavy with pain and emotion. These graves hold the bodies of many loved fathers, mothers, children and other family members.

The Bible teaches us that the grave is always the place of the body, not the soul and spirit. In Colossians 2:12 we learn that the soul and spirit are resurrected while we are still alive physically and that they are immortal. As I stand in the midst of all this death the strong message of Easter comes alive to me.

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice. And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

As a Christian walking through the cemetery the love of God can be overwhelming. Neither we, nor these decaying memories, are strangers to him. His love is so tremendous that he freely suffered and released us from our immorality. Because he died for our sins on the cross, death has no victory. All these graves will be open. The resurrection of the dead and life everlasting is ours.

Perhaps I shall meet my grandfather when the time comes. Perhaps not. What is sure, is that by God's mercy and grace, the cross will save us all.

*- **Peggy White** is a freelance writer who lives with her husband in Port Colborne, Ontario. They are members of First Presbyterian. She is active in the church, singing in the Senior Choir and editing a quarterly newsletter. She began a productive writing career when both of her sons were away at university.*

Although she majored in Business Administration at university and works full time in the health care field, her first love has always been the written word. Peggy has been published in The Presbyterian Record, Presbycan Daily Devotional and various newspapers and newsletters.

Many people have purchased her poetry as framed, decorated gifts. Besides having more time for golf, her goal is to become a full time writer, confident that God will continue to 'give me the words'.

True Friend

Sometimes, I feel so lonely
I feel the need to cry.
There are times I feel unwanted -
rejected by all nearby.
I think of how You felt, dear Lord
when you died on Calvary's tree:
beaten, alone, forsaken;
as rejected as one can be.

Thank you Lord for listening
to every prayer I pray;
for standing close beside me and
for strength to face each day.
Thanks for being what You are,
for being there, when I need
someone to share my loneliness -
You are my friend, indeed.

Richard W. Unger

WMS gift reaches Ukraine - *Sixty Years Later!*

Left to right: Rev. Semeniuk, Rev. Fesenko and Mrs. Semeniuk

PREFACE

The Editorial Committee of the Ukrainian Book of Praise expresses their heartfelt appreciation to the Women's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and to the Inter Board Committee of the Women's Missionary Societies of Canada for their kind assistance, without which it would have been difficult to publish this Book.

This Book of Praise was originally intended as a gift to the Ukrainian Presbyterian Church in Poland. It is with this thought still in mind that we are issuing it, hoping that it will ultimately reach our brethren in Europe, who, under the changed circumstances, have no possibility of publishing one themselves.

However, there was an acute need for a new Ukrainian hymn book in Canada, and thanks to the splendid missionary spirit, recognition of the need and generosity of the Women's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church and the Inter-Board Committee, Ukrainian Christians are now able to have this Book, for which there has been a long felt need.

P. C. Crath, J. Roberts-Kovalevitch, M. Fesenko,
Editorial Committee.

АПОСТОЛЬСЬКЕ ВІРУЮ

Вірую в Бога Отця, Творця неба і землі;

І в Ісуса Христа Його Єдинородного Сина, нашого Господа, котрий зачався від Святого Духа, вродився від Діви Марії, терпів за Понтія Пилата, був розіпятий, мертвий і похований. Третього

Almost sixty years after it was intended, a WMS gift finally reached the Ukraine. In 1940, money was given to provide a much needed Book of Praise to the Ukrainian Presbyterian Church in Poland. Instead it was published for use by Ukrainians in Canada with the hope that it would somehow reach their brothers and sisters in Europe. It was reissued in 1957, with still no way of getting to the Ukraine. War and communism intervened.

In 1994, a few Ukrainain Canadians visited Pastor Filimon Semeniuk in Ukraine, bearing a number of the old hymn books. They were received with great joy.

When the section from the Preface of the hymn book was read (see copy above), and they realized that those books were the very ones intended for them years ago, tears were shed.

Pastor Filimon Semeniuk is a "true" Ukrainian from the Western Ukraine. He was born in an area that at that time was part of Tsarist Russia, and later came under control of Poland.

The churches he served began to bear the brunt of persecution after the Bolsheviks invaded the remainder of Ukraine in September, 1939. He shared the fate of many of his fellow believers, but he held on in faith and provided moral leadership to a scattered flock. Deliverance came after

- Left to right: Rhoda Melinyshyn, Eleanor Carpen (daughters of Rev. Fesenko) and Sophia Sememiuk, singing from the old Ukrainian Hymn Book.

1990, but not before he spent years in the Gulag in a concentration camp.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada was linked to the Ukraine 75 years ago when Rev. Paul Crath was appointed to mission-work in Western Ukraine, and helped re-establish the Ukrainian Reformed Church there.

Rev. Filimon Semeniuk, 87 years old, along with his wife of 60 years, Sophia, visited Canada in April/May 1999. They visited the Presbyterian Church Offices and Rev. Seminiuk was guest speaker at Thornhill Presbyterian Church for their mission weekend. He is still pastor of the Ukrainian Evangelical Reformed Church in Rivne, Ukraine.

Rev. Semeniuk's life has spanned the many invasions of the Ukraine. He was a young theological student when the war began, and he grieved as successive nations played tug-of-war with his homeland. Refusing to renounce his faith, he went "underground", was eventually captured, spent 10 years in the labour camps of Siberia, and several in internal exile before he was allowed to return home to his devastated country.

The intervening years were a struggle for survival in a hostile environment. Rev. Semeniuk and his wife are shining examples of faithful Christians who have held firm in spite of unbelievable adversity.

In 1990, with "glasnost and perestroika", he was finally able to begin trying to restore the Reformed Church in Western Ukraine, 35 churches of which existed before the Second World War. These same churches were supported in the 1920s and 30s by The Presbyterian Church in Canada, which sent Ukrainian Canadian missionaries there.

At the beginning of their stay, Rev. and Mrs. Semeniuk visited in the home of

Rev. Michael Fesenko, editor of the Evangelical Truth, a publication in Ukrainian designed to reach Ukrainian Christians both in North America and Europe. They had never met before but had corresponded when it became possible. The Semeniuks also received the Evangelical Truth which they value. (When ordained, Rev. Fesenko was called to mission behind the Iron Curtain but was unable to go due to his anti-communist activities. He turned instead to ministry among Ukrainians in Canada.)

"It was a gift to be there when they finally shook hands together", said Rhoda Melinyshyn, Mr. Fesenko's daughter "They are both survivors with one life-long goal - to spread the Good News amongst the Ukrainian people wherever they are."

- Thanks to Rhoda Melinyshyn of Thornhill Church who provided the photos and much of the above information.

The WMS, through its Christian Literature Fund has also supported for many years the publication, Evangelical Truth.

Teens Pre-Teens

These are now your formative years
to build a path of joy, or of tears.
As the body and mind, they start to bloom,
expand to man or woman soon.
Then you try your strength in parental nest,
break a twig or two as a power test;
then seek outside to socialize;
as now you feel adult and wise
and inner strengths they start to flare.
Be cautious now! Choose your friends with care.
True, it's nice to feel that you belong
to a special group of dance and song,
but avoid the cliques with secret code;
there's something to hide in their abode.
Or the other gangs that swagger and boast
and bully and bash and hate the most.
For before you know you're swallowed up
in crimes and deeds that need the Cops.
Then as the facts they start to leak,
each one his neck to save will speak,
and you, though not that crime did do
bring your family down to shame and rue.
So prize your youth and aim to do
things to make you, proud of you!

Rupert H. D. Westmaas

Rupert Westmaas came to Canada in 1977 from Guyana. His ancestors are from west of the River Maas in Holland, hence the name, Westmaas. They settled in British Guiana in 1825. Rupert says he is now a recycled senior citizen and a citizen of Canada. The above poem is from his book "130 - Lyric Poems - Entertainment for Extraordinary Folk - Who Enjoy Controversial Subjects - Philosophical and Humorous Rhymes - Including Love. His poetry has a calypso lilt. If interested in his book, contact Rupert at 1279 Perez Crescent, Gloucester, ON K1J 8T9 or email: rhd@iosphere.net.

OUR POT OF GOLD

by Gail Northgrave

Folklore speaks of a 'pot of gold' at the end of a rainbow- the fortune which will guarantee us a trouble free life, a life of happiness, a life of prestige, of power.

We want money. Besides working for it, people spend billions of dollars on lottery tickets, in bingo halls and in gambling casinos in hopes of hitting it lucky.

We trust the figures in our bank account, our pension plan and promised salary more than we trust our God whom St. Paul declared would, "meet all your needs". It is easier to trust money which we can see than to trust an invisible God, a God who says, "Give, and it will be given to you". It is easier to trust a visible employer who promises a weekly salary than it is to trust the promise, "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well".

Definitely, money is important. God created all the gold and all the silver - for a purpose: to bring love, peace, and joy into our world.

Financial advisers suggest we make our money work for us. They speculate and investigate which stocks and money markets will yield the highest interests. Alas, they cannot guarantee market upheavals which, at times, have caused people to commit suicide.

However, investing into the kingdom frees one of these worries. Jesus said, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these... of mine you did for me". Again, he tells us that whatever we give for the spread of the gospel will be returned to us, "a hundred times as much", in this present age - and in the age to come, eternal life.

John D. Rockefeller, Sr., 1839-1937, had accumulated his first million at the age of thirty-nine. At the age of forty-three, he had built up the largest monopoly the world had ever seen. Yet, at fifty-three, worry and high tension living had wrecked his health. Candidly, he admitted that he was obsessed with money.

"I never place my head upon the pillow at night," he confided to a friend, "without reminding myself that my success might be only temporary."

Doctors finally told him he had a choice - his money or his worries - or his life. He choose. He retired. Then, with time for reflection on Christian principles, he began to think of other people. He stopped thinking of how much money he could get; and he began to give away his millions.

In 1913, he established the 'Rockefeller Foundation' which fights disease and ignorance all over the world. His philanthropic giving gave him peace of mind which brought him joy and restored his health. Instead of dying at the age of fifty-three, he lived to be ninety-eight.

Increasing our faith in a providential God who says, "ask" and "believe", grows with each experimental risk.

Hank was about to drop out of University because neither he nor his parents could pay the tuition fees. His future seemed empty and bleak. One day after reading,

"you can pray for anything, and if you believe, you have it; it's yours", Hank felt compelled to trust. "I no longer cared how my fee was going to be paid", says Hank. "I simply believed and it was paid."

Similarly Michael and Audrey Guido believed that God wanted them to start a radio ministry. Together they decided to call it 'The Sower'. "We will make no pleas for money over the air, in person or by mail", recalls Audrey. Today they happily report, "We've kept our promise and the Lord kept his."

One of my financial 'trust God' stories involves my first computer. I had been wanting one for both personal and business reasons. However, my logic and my budget said, "no" to a new one. Instead, I gave my desire, and trusted the outcome, to God. Within a month, I received a telephone call from a girlfriend. "Our doctor is retiring and selling all his office equipment. His fairly new computer can be yours if you agree to take over his small monthly payments." Naturally, I agreed.

St. Paul warns, "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant, not to put their hope in wealth which is so uncertain, but to hope in God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment".

The movie *Titanic* is a masterpiece which points out the validity of his words. Not only was the wealthy gentleman unable to buy Rose's love, neither could it guarantee him safety. "Your money is useless," screamed the officer in charge of seating arrangements on lifeboats. Then, tossing the bribery money from the rich young man into the air, he yelled, "It won't save your life anymore than it will save my life."

Our 'pot of gold', and in fact, the security for all our needs is not found at the end of a rainbow or in the visible dollar bill. It lies in proclaiming and acting on the Good News of God's love, the Good News of God's generosity and in believing all God's Good News promises.

Our true security, our health and our happiness rests in God.

The Cottage

Nothing to boast about
A cabin in the trees
With no TV.
We read books.
We play games.
There is laughter and
splashes.
Motor boats and canoes
Sandy beaches and no
shoes.
Then at night
Bull frogs loud as they
can be.
Water splashing against
the trees.
Lights that flicker or
Turn down low.
And fireflies that
light the night.

Maureen Kowal

1999-2000 STUDY RESOURCES

A. A study of the covenant partnership between The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba

Adult & Youth Study: Sharing God's Mission Together
The partnership agreement signed in 1997 opened new doors of possibility between our two churches. This six-session study encourages participants to reflect on our shared roots of faith and the context of the Cuban church. Activities in the last session will provide ways for Presbyterians in Canada to participate in the partnership. **G6792 12.00**

Map 'n Facts on Cuba **G678 15.75**

Video: Cuba-Three Faith Perspectives: Learn about how three Cuban Christians practice their faith in the wake of the Cuban revolution. Study guide included. (28:47 minutes) **G6788 52.50**

New Internationalist, No. 301/May 1998
Special issue on Cuba **G6802 4.50**

Perspectives on Cuba and Its People (Friendship Press)
Includes biographies of historical and present day figures, perspectives of Taino people, black Cubans Cuban émigrés and Cuban Christians and includes questions for discussion.
G6780 21.00

B. Mission in the 21st Century

Adult Study: Hope and Justice for All in the Americas-Discerning God's Mission (Friendship Press) Essays by theologians and pastors from the Missiology Consultation in Costa Rica, April 1997 **G6783 13.95**

Video: Diverse Cultures, One Gospel (World Council of Churches, 22 minutes) This video illustrates how Christians of diverse cultures embody the gospel of Jesus Christ. **G6784 52.50**

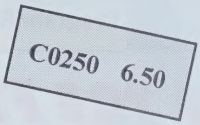
C. Stories of Mission - annual reports from Canada and International Ministries in loose leaf format, easy to photocopy and use for a variety of mission interpretation occasions. **G6873 Free**

1999/2000 Learning/Sharing Project—Partners: Meeting our Friends in Cuba

What would it be like if you had a church school but no books? No curriculum, no Bible story books, no Bible study materials. This is reality for many Cuban children and youth. This year, as Canadian children and youth learn about life and people in Cuba, they will be invited to collect money to buy Bible story books. For many Cuban children this may be the first time they have held a Bible story book in their hands.

The study contains six sessions:

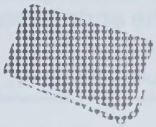
1. Without a word, God speaks
2. A message in a seed
3. The good earth
4. Carla grows up
5. God's beach
6. Celebrate Cuba



Partners: Meeting Our Friends in Cuba provides stories, games, crafts, group activities, discussions, recipes. Participants will learn about the people and culture of Cuba and the recent partnership that we (The Presbyterian Church in Canada) have formed with the Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Cuba.

Use the learning/sharing project in church school, youth groups, after-school programs, camps, vacation church school, or any place where children and youth gather. Order your copy for $8 from the Book Room, 50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON. Telephone: 1-800-619-7301, 416-441-1111.

A 5-minute video Sunshine and Snow ($6) describes how children and youth in Canada and Cuba might connect with each other.



a poem

a poem might find you alone
it might envelope you in its airy sweetness
whisper to you its wind-blown sentiments
in the ruffling of your hair
it might flutter in your breast at the sight of a loved one
and move you to cheerful delight
as you share a moment there

you might make your way to a mountain
and in the hollow of its snowy embrace
discover the very power of its majestic kindness
for it might shield the brilliance of some lone and dainty stem
laid bare in folds of crystal splendour
and surely there
you will find a poem

Barbara Mitchell

program...program...program...program...program...program.....

Margaret Robertson
Program Secretary

INTO THE FLAMES: HOT STUFF*

*Used at Council '99

Wasn't it like a fire burning within us when he talked to us on the road and he explained the scriptures to us?
Luke 24:32 (TEV)

Gathering
The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; Wait for the Lord! (Psalm 27: 1, 14)

Silence to prepare for listening to God's Word

Prayer: O God of all creation, we come into your presence, humbled by your power and energy. Grant us the courage to listen for your words and guidance as we pray, as we hear scripture, as we sing and as we reflect on the Gospel and the thoughts generated here. AMEN

Thoughts on God's Word: I wonder what you imagine when you see the title "Into the Flames: Hot Stuff"? "What are we getting into?"

Because our national church is working on the FLAMES initiative, INTO THE FLAMES was chosen as the theme for Council followed with three sub-themes, one for each evening.

Scripture came first, then some research. Use your analytical and educational skills and just daydream.

Ø **Small Group Talk**: What immediately comes to mind when you hear the words "Hot Stuff"? Any answer is the right answer. (Talk in small groups, then have each group share back one or two ideas that they heard.)

Have you ever made chili sauce? Did someone say to you, "Remember to be careful when you are chopping those hot peppers - don't rub your eyes - wash your hands." Hot peppers are an important ingredient in chili sauce. They give it life. Like salsa today, which seems to be very popular, they perk up a meal; they stand out in contrast to most other foods on a same menu.

How do we react to something hot in temperature? We say, Don't touch the stove. Stay away from the fire - yet fire/flame is compelling. Campfires draw you into their

Left to right special guests at Council: John Congram, Suh, Jongsoon, Mercy Chilapula and Andrew, and Mercy Ravikant.

presence. The song **"Fire's burning, fire's burning, come nearer, come nearer, in the glowing, in the glowing, come sing and be merry"** draws you in.

Sing: Fire's Burning (round)

Reflection: How many times have you sat around a campfire or in front of a fireplace and felt God's presence, found answers to life questions or just became closer to someone or the group that you were with. Fire draws us nearer. It seems to encourage us to be reflective and to be creative.

A forest fire, at first, seems destructive, but ultimately new life is generated. There is a tree that only germinates through the process of fire. There is a section in the Calgary Zoo that has been burned to simulate forest fire and its re-growth. Fire is a natural phenomenon. It destroys the old, but leaves way for the new to grow.

Luke 24:32 is contained in the stories that follow the crucifixion. The women go to the tomb, expecting to find Jesus' body and wondering how they will roll the tomb stone away. They are shocked to find the stone moved and the body gone. Luke tells us that they remembered what Jesus had said, 'that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' When they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. (Luke 24:7-9) Even though they told their story, they found it hard to believe what had happened.

Next, we read about the 'two' walking to Emmaus, meeting Jesus on the road, talking with him, going into a house and "when he was with them he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them" (verse 30), then vanished. They said, "Wasn't it like a fire burning within us when he talked to us on the road and he explained the scriptures to us? (verse 32 TEV)

Some may have thought that Jesus' crucifixion meant the end of a story. Instead it was the start of something new - like new life germinating after a fire, like the hot peppers that give life to the chili sauce.

What did it take to start a movement that would continue for 2000 years and more?

There is something in the verses of Luke 24:13-35 that catches our attention -**Wasn't it like a fire burning within us?** That sounds like HOT STUFF! How do other versions of the Bible translate this verse?

The Living Bible says, *hearts felt strangely warm*, and the Phillips translation reads, hearts glowing. These are nice gentle words.

The NRSV says, **Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?** That is stronger.

The words I heard the Sunday after Easter were, **Wasn't it like a fire burning within us when he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?** That is what catches our attention. (TEV, Good News Bible) That is HOT STUFF!

That fire burning was mission. It perked up the ears of the hearers. It gave them a new life that was in contrast to their current way of believing. It was compelling. It drew them in. It encouraged them to be reflective and to move out...telling the whole world what had happened. That is HOT STUFF!

Hot stuff for us, means having an energy that drives us to do something. If you are working on a project, work at it until it until it has a level of energy that excites you, until it literally energizes you. You will know when it feels right. For example, when you prepare worship or a program, work at it, pray about it, think about it and work at it some more until it is exciting enough for you to be able to promote it. If you believe in it, then you are ready to share it.

Small Group Talk

1. What is the fire that is burning for us?
2. Wasn't it like a fire burning within us when he talked to us on the road and he explained the scriptures to us? Name the practical ways that we can share the fire burning within us.

Prayer: O God of wind and fire, you continue to come into our lives, sometimes quietly and sometimes dramatically. Sometimes we respond and sometimes we chose to ignore your requests. Today, we remember that you call us into mission. The words that we have heard and read demonstrate the energy that you gave to the first disciples of Jesus and that you give us today. Grant us renewed energy today as we seek to follow your call as Christ's disciples.

Sing #384 *O Breath of life, come sweeping through us*

Option: You might like to use this service in a camp fire setting to celebrate a special occasion. For example: celebrate the end of the Five Year Plan/Threatened with Resurrection and the beginnings of new ideas.

Council Executive and Council have decided to work on three areas in the next three years: Promoting the Work of WMS, Finance and Education of its members. You might chose to have the members write two things on a piece of paper (one thing that was accomplished in the last five years and one thing that they wish to accomplish in the next three years). Place the papers in the fire as a symbol of things accomplished and things dreamed for/your prayers rising with the smoke

Honorary Memberships 1998

June Campbell
Barrie ON

Ada Chapman
Buckhorn ON

Jean Dancey
Oshawa ON

Phyllis Davidson
Port Colborne On

Roberta Davis
Hamilton On

N. Dinwoodie
Edmonton AB

Jean Easton
Exeter ON

Christine Fryfogel
Milverton ON

Jean Fryfogel
Shakespeare ON

Sara Gordon
Vancouver BC

Dorothy Hopper
Mississauga ON

Jeanette Jamieson
Cambridge ON

Isabel Jeffray
Belmore ON

Catherine Johnson
Guelph On

Ina Lamerson
Durham ON

Frances Lockwood
Renfrew ON

Catherine E. MacRae
Vanleek Hill ON

Rev. Donald Muir
Stouffville ON

Phyllis Pudwell
Medicine Hat AB

Shirley Thompson
Glammis ON

Martha Watt
Brandon MB

Margaret Weir
Burlington ON

Sally Williams
Hamilton ON

Edna Workman
Port Colborne ON

Certificate of Recognition

Mary Benson
Montreal QC

May Boyd
Montreal QC

Doreen Brown
Montreal QC

Jennifer Chadsey
Ottawa ON

Margaret Dunlop
Burlington ON

Betty Hawthorne
Markham ON

Dorothy Hill
Bolsover ON

Shirley Johnson
Edmonton AB

Brent Kershaw
Sarnia On

Joey McEwen
Sarnia On

Melanie McEwen
Sarnia On

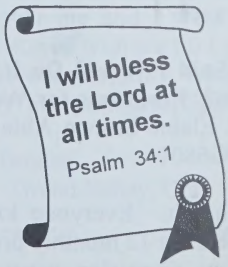
Melinda McLean
Thornhill ON

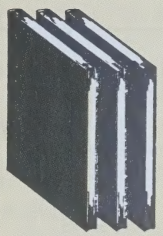
Ida Murphy
Kirkfield ON

Kieran Nadoo
Thornhill

Gail Sanderson
Montreal QC

Welthea Smardon
Montreal QC





BOOKS

Order from:
The Book Room
50 Wynford Drive
North York, ON M3C 1J7
416-441-1111 Ext. 239/240
E-mail: Bookroom@presbyterian.ca
Hours: Mon-Fri-9:00-4:45

1-800-619-7301

Please do not send payment with your order. (An invoice including postage and applicable tax will be sent with your order.) Please include name and location of congregation. **Note: VISA and Mastercard now accepted.**

Inheriting Paradise: Meditations on Gardening by Vigen Guroian. Eerdmans $14.75 GG6786

Travel the garden path throughout the Christian year in this gentle and reflective guide to our internal and external growing season.

This is a not a quick " harvest" kind of book, but one that with some careful attention, will yield a crop of perennial wisdom and insight.

Boomerang Joy: Joy that Goes Around, Comes Around 60 Devotions by Barbara Johnson. Zondervan $15.95 GG5613

The woman hailed as the Christian "Erma Bombeck" has done it again, this time in a book of devotions sure to add a smile to any day or meeting. Read about her experience with her gag pantyhose, or how she compares overcoming some of life's trials with being swallowed by an anaconda. Each devotion is paired with scripture and prayer.

I Said I Would Do It, Now What Do I Do? Programs for Women's Groups by V. Elaine Strawn Abingdon Press $13.75 GG6801

Oh, oh. Everyone knows that feeling! Here are 12 monthly programs with reflections, discussion questions, scripture, music suggestions and activities. That might be enough, but included are also programs for some seasonal celebrations and ones for Mission Sunday and World Day of Prayer.

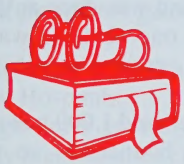
Sheltered by God's Love: 52 Bible Lessons for Senior Adults by Morton King. Abingdon $16.95 GG6814

These weekly Bible lessons proclaim the "old, old story" of God's love, forgiveness, and hope - in all circumstances. They are designed to be used in a variety of settings: mid-week groups, adult bible study Sunday mornings, in nursing homes, or for personal use.

Questions for reflection and discussion are also provided to help groups or individuals apply the material to the specific circumstances of their own lives.

Sign & Say Bible Verses for Children Edited by Daphna Flegal. Illustrated by Robert S. Jones. Abingdon $20.25 GG6858

Children of all ages remember more easily what they learn when you involve both their bodies and their minds - and we want them to remember Bible verses! Use this resource in church, in Sunday School, during Vacation Bible School, or at grandma's house.



RESOURCE BOOK FOR WMS

At last there is a book that combines specific resources such as Installations services, complete service for a mission Sunday, and a process for planning a mission festival along with practical ideas for planning meetings, disbanding a group and starting a new group. You will also find clip art and a lengthy Bibliography listing many further resources available from The Book Room ($5 plus gst) All are listed in four sections - Planning, Program, Promotion and Practice.

Quotable Quote:

New Year's Resolutions
That all clergy be required to know at least as much about the work of the Church around the world as the average 75 year old WMS member.

ANN: The Newsletter of A New Network Within The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Issue 8. February 1999

"I"-Witness

Driving back from the courthouse with my sister, I noticed part of a rainbow and pointed it out to her. How odd. It was a blistering cold January day; the snow was drifting across the road although the sun came through the clouds every so often.

I was devastated as I had been charged with a criminal act and asked to plead guilty. How could they ask for such a thing when I was not guilty?

I knew my family, relatives, friends and the church were praying for me. We had a quick lunch as my sister was in a hurry to get back to work. The last words she said before getting in the car were: "Remember the rainbow," and I said I would.

But I did not remember until later that night while lying in bed and looking at the stars out of the window. How often over the year when unable to sleep had I tried to count the stars and think about Psalm 19:1 where it says, *The heavens declare the glory of God.* Then my thoughts would go to Abraham when God promised to multiply his seed like the stars (Genesis 15:5).

I remembered the rainbow again and God's promise that it would be a token of the covenant between God and the people (Genesis 9:13); and then I thought of God's promise in Hebrews 13: 5-8 *I will never leave you, nor forsake you.*

God proved to me again His promise. A peace came over me and I went to sleep. This peace stayed with me till I got a call that indeed I was not guilty. What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer. Amen

Harriet Broeze
Grand Valley, ON

MISSION IN ACTION

David & Miriam Barrie
Malawi

February 1999 - Oh what a meeting we went to today. Thirty villagers including several women walked from every direction over steep hills and on mud roads (no one complains since the rains are so spotty this year), Some arrived as early as 7:00 a.m. and some by 11:00 a.m.

These days any meeting or event can fail on short notice because of a funeral. The six village headmen and group village headman were there. We have their support for what we plan to do and that is a most important step. So out to the fields we went under threatening skies to show them what progress we have made:

- two hectares of cassava for seed multiplication. We give some to farmers who are expected to pass some on to their neighbours.
- the same idea with sweet potatoes.
- a small plot of popcorn.
- our year old citrus plantation or orange, mango, grapefruit, papaya and guava has a 95% survival.

The next step is our first compost heap where we demonstrate how you can make one at home. This is exciting - our teaching has begun. Now we pass an area which looks as if a bunch of sows rooted in it but in fact was just plowed by Mr. Soko and his team of oxen (too small) and his plow (too worn). This land was once an MBC transmitter site so one obstacle was the plow hooking into ground wires every few metres.

We just purchased 1,000 tree seedlings to plant on our boundaries so the second demonstration is how to plant a tree. Simple, but so important because deforestation is a major problem. We let each person choose a pine or bluegum to plant at home. We ended the day with tea and yellow buns while we asked for their ideas on how we could help them.

At the very end, we disclosed our plans to "help them help themselves". Things like composting and buying no fertilizer and digging their own shallow wells will be first and we are trying to find a Homecraft worker to teach knitting/sewing/cooking but that must wait until they are not so busy in the fields.

One very important step we have taken is to hire Mr. Sichinga to head this project and carry it on. When we go home this time, I know we will feel good about the project because of him. Our experience has been that good people = good work.

Devaluation of the kwacha has hurt Malawians making it difficult for them to afford so many things such as paying school fees, buying fertilizers or even providing basic needs for their families. Only a few of the 20 Homecraft students came because of tough times, so Miriam has gone

Our experience has been that good people = good work.

regularly to assist at health clinics run by the Mission Hospital.

The tough times are truly visible as we see so many malnourished children brought to the hospital. In spite of this, the people around us are cheerful, pleasant and thankful for what little they have. We share lots of laughs, even amid all their struggles like challenging the staff to lift nine bricks with one hand! (Yes, it can be done!)

Thank you so much for your financial support and encouragement. We couldn't do it without you. When we go home, we will miss the wonderful singing every morning by the Commerce students; the bananas growing just outside our window; the overflow crowds in our historic Ekwendeni Church and of course the staff with whom we've enjoyed working over the past three years.

Sincerely,

David & Miriam

Jack & Betty Geddes
Taiwan

As usual it has been an interesting year for us as we try to follow the Lord's leading for our lives. There was no change in work assignment at the beginning of the year, so Betty continued as Inter-Board Treasurer at the General Assembly offices and Jack as one of two English secretaries to General Secretary Rev. Yang Chi-shou. Before his term as General Secretary ended in June, Jack had been asked to join the faculty of Taiwan Theological College as English teacher in the college department. That appointment began in August.

Betty looks after the finances of several foreign mission boards as they work with the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. It has been a wild year with the exchange rates of currencies sometimes changing daily, requiring account books to follow suit. Betty hopes to keep the field books in local currency in 1999, so her work will be lighter next year. She has enjoyed using her accountancy talents to help the church, and the partner boards and their missionaries. She spends three days a week at the General Assembly offices.

Jack enjoyed his two years after retirement from the university (because of age!) at the General Assembly, although going to an office five weekdays at regular office hours was something of a strain. The GA work was a valuable insight into the larger work of the church which we local church members rarely attain, and gave us a greater appreciation for the dedication and sacrifice of program secretaries and other staff. But it is a great relief to return to teaching! Jack started his association with TTC by teaching an extensive three-week English summer course for incoming students in August; graduates were doing Greek. The formal work began with a four-day faculty and student retreat in a rural conference center that brought some healing to problems from past years and established small concern groups for students and faculty. Everyday work requires going to the seminary three days for my ten hours of English. Not only has it been a delight to work as a teacher, and be involved in the education of future church workers, but crowded bus lines have pushed Jack into doing a thirty-minute walk and climb to get to the campus.

We are both involved in many other activities such as small group Bible studies, English Bible classes, and tutorials as well as a commitment to the Stephen Ministry. Jack acts as an English consultant to the

Ministry of Education and the Bible Society, as well as doing some bird-watching and local history work. On January 2, we [celebrated] the fortieth anniversary of our arrival in Taiwan. We want you to know that we thank God for His blessing on our work and family through these years as He has been moulding and shaping us to something nearer His plan; and that we covet your prayers for all of our family members. We always have someone in need.

Thank you for keeping in touch with us ... May the Spirit of Jesus continue to live in us all.

Jack and Betty Geddes

gedflojo@ms12.hinet.net
PS. Please underline TAIWAN in our address, and you can omit ROC.

Allison
Cameroon

Christmas 1998- Jars of homemade jam are sold by our youngest partner. Friends sell a well-used car. A children's Sunday School contributes to help provide the equipment necessary to run our computer. A church mission agency advances funds. Youth groups hold fund-raising events. Churches in Canada and the U.S. take special 'set-up expense' offerings. Memorial gifts are given in honour of a beloved uncle. Many, many other gifts are received.

In newsletters over the past two years we have made mention of our need for 'set-up' funds to cover the cost of a vehicle and house set-up equipment. This is a time of celebration for us as we see the Lord supplying our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. We are very thankful to many of you who have helped by giving so generously.

Since early September we have been living in the city of Maroua located in the Far North province of Cameroon. Maroua is about five hours south of the Kotoko village of Makari where we plan to move. The city of Maroua will serve as our supply town in the years to come, so we appreciate this opportunity to live here till January and get an idea of what food items and supplies we can purchase. By January we will have our vehicle, stove, fridge and most of the solar power equipment that we've ordered. We've also been able to find a home to rent in Makari, and we'll be doing some renovation work on it before moving in.

Maroua has given us an exposure to the Islamic culture of northern Cameroon. Five times a day the call to prayer goes up from the numerous neighbourhood mosques of the city; five times a day the men stop their work to congregate for the ritual prayer times. Their diligence and discipline in that matter is challenging us in regard to our own prayer times, especially when the first call to prayer begins as early as 4 a.m. We're told that part of the call to prayer for the early morning prayer time is the proclamation that prayer is more important than sleep!

There is a community of Kotoko speakers from Makari that live in Maroua, so we've been able to begin learning some Kotoko. A young Kotoko man named Moussa comes each day and helps us learn his language. This is an exciting time for us as we are finally putting our linguistic training to work in learning and analyzing this unwritten language.

Josiah and Nathanael are especially excited about this Christmas season since Omee and Papa Allison are on their way for a three week visit. This will be their first time to see Nathanael in person who is now walking and beginning to practise his

verbal skills with his older brother and whoever will take the time to listen to him. Lezlie and I are also looking forward to a few 'date nights' while the grandparents are in town.

In the One to whom belongs the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen,

Sean, Lezlie, Josiah and Nathanael

Email address:
Sean-Lezlie_Allison@sil.org

Margaret Vanderzweerde
India

Jan. 4, 1999- Albeit late, I do wish you all God's good and perfect gifts for the year ahead. May his Love, Joy and Peace be yours, always.

Having arrived back in Canada on December 18th I was able to celebrate Christmas with my husband, mother, children, grandchildren and friends. It was wonderful to come to a clean house and lots of Christmas baking, thanks to a gracious and loving friend at my home congregation, Stamford Presbyterian in Niagara Falls. My husband, Jake, had decorated the house, inside and out, complete with Christmas tree. The wonderful Christmas music, from radio and cassettes, filled the house and combined with scents, sounds, and lights to create that special magic that gives us inner peace and warmth. I felt like a Cheshire cat in front of a fireplace, basking in the luxury of a truly Canadian Christmas, complete with a little snow.

"THANK YOU" to all who have so faithfully sent cards and letters to Jake and me. You will never know how much your tokens of love mean to us. God bless you.

This last year's service has been exciting as well as exhausting.

...continued on page 34

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Central America

1. For Fernando Cascante, a new member of our team, as he leads workshops and conferences in Christian Education in his native Costa Rica, in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, and in Cuba.

2. For Lidya Ruth Zamora as she leaves behind fifteen years as director of the School of Nursing and assumes her new position as Vice Rector of the Polytechnic University of Nicaragua.

3. For the people of Nicaragua and of Honduras as they continue with the agonizing labour of re-building their countries after the devastation of Hurricane Mitch.

4. For Elias Gaitan Sotelo, a new member of our adjunct staff as he undertakes his new role of support to the mission in Nicaragua.

5. Give thanks for the ministries of Denise Van Wissen in northern Nicaragua as she teaches alternative nutrition and celebrates the strength of the people. And for that of David Villalonga as he continues to introduce goats and rabbits into poor communities in Nicaragua.

6. For the people who live in and around the dumps: Acahualinca in Managua; Zone Three in Guatemala City; Apopa, El Salvador and elsewhere. That the grace of Christ might be presented to them and that they might find hope.

7. For the people of the Batahola Community, a small parish in Managua offering music, dance, natural medicine, computer skills, and

many other services in a depressed area of the City.

8. For Kennis and Ken Kim as they work with Mayan Presbyterians in Guatemala and as they receive and interpret their reality to visiting delegations.

9. For Antonio Otzoy as he seeks to find ways to train and capacitate members of the Brotherhood of Mayan Presbyterians.

10. For Sister Gladys and other staff members of the Francisco Coll School in the Guatemala City dump. Give thanks for their devotion and for their calling and pray for their health and safety.

11. For Maria v. de Sacquic and other widows of the the violence in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua that years after the deaths of loved ones they might still remember but move on to build life anew.

12. For Christopher Jorna and for the people with whom he works, through the Guyana Presbyterian Church. That that church might also witness to racial harmony and reconciliation and might accompany its people in their quest for vision and hope.

13. For the support staff for mission work at Wynford Drive: Mary Beth McLean, Marjorie Ross, Gladys Stover and Wilma Welsh as they work to support our workers around the world.

OVERSEAS STAFF BIRTHDAYS

August
4 - David Barrie, Malawi
9 - Aleida Villalonga, Nicaragua
9 - Ken Kim, Guatemala
15 - Urey Onuoha, Nigeria (cards sent via Wynford Drive)
18 - Daniel Scharwz, Nepal
18 - Betty Geddes, Taiwan

September
7 - David Villalonga
14 - Michael Lessard-Clouston, Japan
16 - Denise Van Wissen
16 - Arlene Randall Onuoha, Nigeria (cards sent via Wynford Drive)
22 - Kevin Savage, Malawi
24 - Christina Schwarz, Nepal
25 - Teboho Young, Malawi
25 - Makhotso Young, Malawi
27 - Clara Henderson, Malawi

[The following highlights are excerpted from Margaret's letter]:

Jake and I traveled extensively throughout India at the invitation of the Church of North India. We visited eight Dioceses, from North to South, and covered over 20,000 km by rail, car and bus. ...we are encouraged by the growth of the Church, especially in the rural areas.

In the Patna Diocese we visited Taljhari where they desperately need a new school building... I challenged them to raise 50,000 rupees ($200 CDN) and promised that I would do everything in my power to help raise the remainder. Over the next 7 months they actually raised not 50,000 but 200,000 rupees.

Here at home the Presbytery of Niagara made a commitment to support my work by

providing funds to cover the deficit of the spring trip and sponsor a benefit dinner, initiated and hosted by the Rev. Hugh Jones, to cover necessary funds for travel in the fall. The drive was so successful that excess funds over requirements could be put towards the building of the school. With other individual and group donations toward the same cause, and International Ministries' support, the first phase of the building project was covered and the money brought to India.

Another "high" of the year was the ordination of the first female minister in the Bhopal Diocese. This young woman, sponsored through the Theological College by a PCC's "Beatrice Scott Scholarship Fund" is the granddaughter of Gangiji, the late Dr. John Buchanan's first converted and ordained tribal (Bhil) in the Jobat area.

We visited Dr. Somen Das, principal of the Bishop's College (Theological) in Calcutta and were asked to convey the faculty's sincere thanks to all who contributed to the anniversary project of raising funds for the library.

In Nepal we were confronted with news of more and intense persecution of Christians as well as the poor, landless labourers. In the past few months of 1998 several pastors have been killed and church workers tortured. In one area of the UMN's involvement over 250 people are known dead as a result of this persecution and another 100 plus are missing.

Easter we spent in Pokhara where we went up to a plateau, high in the Himalayan mountains, to watch the Easter morning sunrise, together with hundreds of other Christians. It was a beautiful experience. It was an awe-inspiring spectacular light show our Creator God treated us to. Even before the sun rose above the horizon the orange light of the sun reflected on the grey mountain range, slowly revealing the snow-covered giants in all their splendor. The range was like a set of fiery pulsating opals, throbbing with the ever-changing light until all the shadows were chased away by the sun's rays and the range, in all its glory, lay before us, bathed in sunlight. It was a fitting Easter experience. As the light of the rising sun dispelled the darkness on the mountains, revealing even that which was hidden in the crevices, so the Light of the Risen Son can dispel the darkness in our hearts, even that which is hidden in its deepest recesses.

At the Spring Board meeting of the United Mission to Nepal I was elected to serve on the Executive Committee and also placed on the Finance Committee. I am thankful that as Nursing Assistant, Certified Commercial Accountant, and Diaconal Minister I can serve the partner churches in a variety of ways.

In Nepal we again visited the leprosy hospitals and at one of them observed Dr. Richard Schwarz at reconstructive surgery. At the other I actually was able to assist in surgery and also visit with the patients at the retraining center.

In the south of India Jake and I visited a number of the PWS&D projects, not as representatives but as old friends of those who give leadership.

In Ludhiana for the Medical College's Board meeting I met with two student nurses who are sponsored through the "Simon Vanoosterom Memorial Scholarship Fund". Simon is my late father who died in 1987. I can't think of a more fitting memorial for the man who always encouraged me to be the best I could be.

I ask that you continue in prayer, especially for the work in Nepal.

In His Love and Service,
Margaret

Anita Kmecz

January 1999- I want to thank all of you for supporting me; some financially, some with letters, and hopefully all in prayer. You have all helped to make this experience so wonderful for me.

It was a very busy summer with many guests, weddings (even a small one at our home), doing paperwork, car shopping, and preparing for my teaching job this year. It has also taken a little bit of time for me to readjust to teaching in a Toronto inner-city school once again! Also, I have been corresponding with quite a few students and friends that I made in Hungary.

As I reflect on these past two years I thank God for the opportunity and the privilege. I have learned and experienced so much, and am always endeavouring to put these things into perspective.

One thing I am thankful for is the opportunity of getting to know so many people. Among these were students, colleagues, other Sarospatak citizens and others around Hungary. We talked a lot, met often (much easier to do in a small town) and simply shared our lives. I got to know what their life is like - what they like, what their hardships are. (I am especially thankful for warm houses, as this basic necessity was a problem for many because heating was so expensive!)

Teaching at the Sarospatak Reformed Academy was interesting and exciting. The Academy began as a Christian institution 467 years ago, but was State-run during the Communist days (for about 40 years). In 1990 it was given back to the Church, and since then Christian education resounds in its classrooms once more! This transition to being, once more, a Christian institution is not easy because the leaders and most of the teachers have grown up and worked in a Communist regime. It is difficult to balance traditional ways with a modern Christian vision. Thus, prayer for leaders is vital.

Over the past two years, my main activity was teaching mathematics, but I was also involved with Bible Studies, Fun Night, and English Club. I loved the teaching and enjoyed all the activities, each with its own nature, and especially that I could get to know the students through them....their willingness, honesty, generosity.

When teaching and/or working with students we often don't see results right away. We may help to sow the seed, but it is our Father who makes it grow in His perfect timing. A perfect example of this occurred a few weekends before school finished. I saw a student, who graduated the previous year, talking to his religion teacher. (I had not taught this student). Afterwards I heard that he had returned to say that he had come to know Jesus as his Lord and Saviour. That's amazing. Praise God. That boy's story was a real encouragement for me. Praying that these students may come to know Christ and grow in their knowledge of Him, so that they may remain strong in their faith throughout their lives.

Finally, one of the biggest things that I learned is that mission work (and really life also) is not about the 'great' plans and ideas that I have, but about what God is doing, and how He can and wants to work, through and in, myself and others.

I would like to say a very special thank you to the Presbyterian Church in Canada for their very generous financial support of me over these last two years. It would not have been possible without them and their commitment to missions. Thank you.

God bless you all. Thanks so much for your prayers, cards and financial support!

Anita Kmecz

NEWS

PAULETTE BROWN HONOURED

On May 21 the Rev. Paulette Brown, minister of University Presbyterian Church, Toronto, received a "Woman of Distinction" Award from the YWCA of Greater Toronto, in the Religion and Community Leadership category. Seven other women were honoured in different categories. Paulette was nominated by Elder Sandra Demson of Rosedale Presbyterian Church and Barbara McLean, Deputy Clerk of Assembly

Several staff were present from Church Offices as well as 28 men and women from Paulette's family and church community, including colleagues in ministry from other denominations.

To hear her speak of her faith was an inspiration. Paulette paid tribute to the women ancestors, those who experienced the Middle Passage and the humilation of slavery and accepted the award on behalf of them and of her community. Paulette gave a ringing call to the Y to recognize more women in marginalized communities and referred to the latent racism in our society. Except for Lesley Parrott, mother of Allison, she was the only recipient for whom the dinner guests stood.

Among Paulette's supporters at the dinner were three black clergywomen - the Rev. Eleanor Scarlett (United Church, Toronto); the Rev. Denise Guillard (Baptist Church, Toronto) and the Rev. Dr. Martha Orphe (United Methodist Church, Pittsburgh).

During her remarks, Paulette referred to the difficult time black women have experienced in seminaries. In the video which introduced her, she spoke of poverty she has experienced and of how obscene it is.

As we engage in post-Ecumenical Decade work, and try to involve more men in the long journey to real equality, both within the Church and without, it's good to remember that for some women - poor, marginalized, refugees - the journey will be very long indeed.

AUSTRIA'S REFORMERS DEFY POPE

Vienna, 17 May (ENI)--A training scheme has been launched in Austria for Roman Catholic women wishing to become priests, despite Pope John Paul II's ban on women's ordination.

The layman who initiated the programme, which has been set up by the Wir sind Kirche (We are Church) movement and is believed to be the world's first course of its kind, said it had been designed in the expectation that a future pope would change the church's rules on the ordination of women.

"We are certain a future pope - though not necessarily the next one - will give different signals than John Paul II, and that an ecumenical council will ultimately decide in favour of women priests," said Hubert Feichtlbauer, the former editor of Austria's Catholic Die Furche weekly newspaper. In December he was elected chairperson of the Wir sind Kirche movement in Austria.

Asked by ENI to predict how soon the Roman Catholic Church would open the priesthood to women, Feichtlbauer said he believed signals that the "course of the church" was changing would come "within the next 10 years".

CHANGE ATTITUDE TO NORTH KOREA

Geneva, 29 April (ENI)--The general secretary of the World Council of Churches has called on the United States and Japan to break the "cycle of threats" and suspicion between North Korea and the West.

"Instead of maintaining an attitude of distrust and

obliging North Korea to maintain an aggressive stance, the primary objective should be to reduce the level of tension," Dr Konrad Raiser told ENI after returning to Geneva from an official visit to North Korea, South Korea and Japan. Instead of an approach based on the "ability to prevail in a military conflict", current efforts to reduce tension, notably by South Korea's President Kim Dan-Jung, should be encouraged.

"I know this is a risky approach," Dr Raiser said.

North Korea, one of the world's last rigorously communist states, is seen in East Asia as a high risk to the security of the region, mainly because it is suspected of developing nuclear weapons. - Edmund Doogue

BOESAK JAILED FOR SIX YEARS

East London, South Africa, 25 March (ENI)--Allan Boesak, former clergyman and leading campaigner against apartheid, has been sentenced in Cape Town to six years' jail by the Cape High Court for fraud and theft of 1.3 million rand (US$210,000 at current exchange rates) in the 1980s that was meant for victims of apartheid.

Sentencing Boesak, Judge John Foxcroft ignored a plea for mercy by church opponent of apartheid, Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Handing down the sentence on 24 March, Judge Foxcroft said that Boesak had been a senior churchman in a position of trust, and, alluding to Boesak's contribution as a leading activist in the anti-apartheid struggle, added: "I know of no reason in law why a person who has done a great deal of good for his country should be exonerated and not be punished for common law offences."

Judge Foxcroft refused an application for leave to appeal. But Boesak, aged 53, is still at liberty, on his own recognisance, pending an application by his counsel to petition the Chief Justice of South Africa to overturn his conviction. - Noel Bruyns

ACCESS TO ALTERNATIVE SITE OF JESUS' BAPTISM

Jerusalem, 23 April (ENI)--The Jordanian authorities have begun promoting a site on the Jordan River which they say is the place where Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist - as an alternative to the site traditionally visited by most Christian pilgrims on the opposite side of the river and controlled by Israel since the 1967 war.

The site of Jesus' baptism is a major attraction to Christians visiting the Holy Land. Many new converts to Christianity choose to be baptised there. Now the rivalry over the site between the two neighbouring countries, which have been at peace since 1994, means that ceremonies are to be held on both sides of the Jordan River during the year 2000.

The development of the site is part of an effort to encourage religious tourism in Jordan, whose government hopes that at least two million people will visit next year.

Father Jerome Murphy-O'Connor, a Roman Catholic and expert on archaeological sites in the Holy Land, said most experts believed that Jesus did enter the Jordan River from the east bank in what is now Jordan. However, this had not been an issue before now.

"Jesus crossed the Jordan to the place where John the Baptist first baptised," he said, adding that this was based on the reference in Chapter 10 of John's Gospel. "But there were was no real concern. It was the River Jordan that was important, not which bank."

Following the baptism, O'Connor said, both Jesus and John the Baptist crossed over to the west bank - now controlled by Israel - before going their separate ways. - Ross Dunn

Dear Friends:
[Cassette tape] received and "read" with many thanks. Glad Tidings is a great resource of information and gives me much pleasure. Many thanks to the Editor and readers.

S.J., Sarnia, ON

Seniors on the Go

Living out of Cans, Boxes and Bags

by Norma Tomlinson

Dessert Suggestions

Buy a cake flan from the supermarket bakery shelf, a box of vanilla pudding or mousse and some canned fruit. Or use cherries and bananas sliced and dipped in lemon juice.

Poke little holes in the flan with a fork. Sprinkle over it about 1/4 cup of apricot or peach liqueur (for children, use diluted orange juice). Let it soak in while you are making up the pudding or mousse.

Put the pudding on top of the flan and let it cool.

Arrange drained fruit on top in a pretty pattern. Chill and serve.

You may also use a can of pie filling in place of the pudding and perhaps whipped cream or whipped topping to pretty it up.

Changing your name or address? New subscriber?

(Use this form to send a change of address, or to forward a new subscription. If you are moving, please let us know at least six weeks before.)
(Please renew through the local group Glad Tidings Secretary.)

New Address:

_____

_____

_____

attach label here

New Subscriber:

Name_____

Address_____

_____

Name of Church:

_____

Total amount enclosed $_____

$10 (including GST) for 2000.

(GST registration #107856783)

Clip out and forward to:

Glad Tidings,
50 Wynford Drive,
North York, Ontario M3C 1J7
Phone: (416) 441-1111 ext. 326
Fax: (416) 441-2825
e-mail: kallen@presbyterian.ca

IN THE SOCIETY

To all publicity secretaries:
You are encouraged to send in items for the "In the Society" column as soon as possible after the event.

If you have e-mail, please help to save *Glad Tidings* staff time and effort and send your item to: jstevens@presbyterian.ca. You are also encouraged to send items on disk which will be returned.

Please try to keep your news to about 200 words. Include only important information and innovative ideas. It is better for you to edit locally than to have the office decide.

Remember: we print EVERY item received although sometimes we do have to edit considerably.

The deadline for material is the first of the month, two months before publication i.e. January 1 for the March/April issue. Please keep this in mind when sending things in.

SYNODICAL

St. Columba Church, Belleville, was the port of call -
A nautical welcome to one and all.
Anchor on a wall, a ship in the kirk,
Theme details throughout - a lot of work!
Even the weather was wet, one hastens to tell-
And the wonderful church choir sang "Rain down", as well!

Attending this 52nd **Toronto-Kingston** Synodical meeting was Susan Jennett, the first delegate from Bermuda. Representing Council Executive was Jean Rankine, Secretary.

Synodical President, Lorna Teare, graciously directed the agenda, assisted by Secretary Joan Smith.

Singing was led by Rev. Stephen Thompson, with his guitar.

Bible Study and Prayer Time, "Servanthood" (the washing of the disciples' feet) was arranged by Rev. Lynda Reid.

Jean McIntyre presented a brief "In Memoriam".

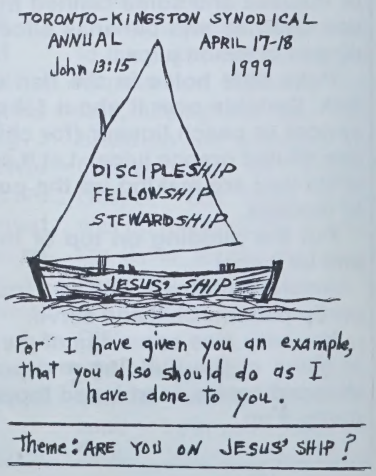
Gwen Brain was the delightful "tour agent" for Free Time, as well as being the pianist who accompanied the organist at the Sunday church service.

At dinner, welcomes were given by Lyla Page, President of Kingston Presbyterial, the Rev. Alan Barr, minister of St. Columba, the MP, the MPP and the mayor. Wonderful entertainment was provided by the Madoc Men's Choir.

Guest speaker was Nan Budding, former missionary in Nepal.

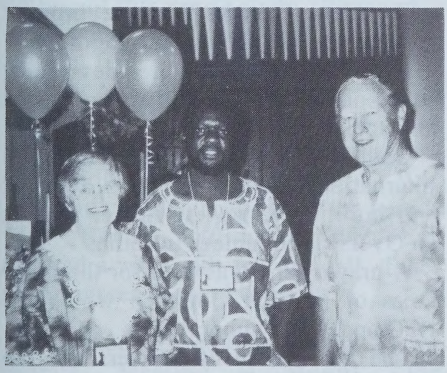
The installation was conducted by Rev. Chen Chen Abbott, Stirling. The new president is June Campbell.

In rhyme, Jill Pardy's courtesies brought to an end
The theme of *Disciple...Servant... Friend.*



Serve the Lord with Gladness was the theme for the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Synodical of **Southwestern Ontario** held in **Knox, Walkerton** April 21-22. President Helen McLeish presided. Kay Remus, President of Bruce-Grey Presbyterial welcomed everyone, after which the Rev. Dr. A. Human ministered the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Business and reports were followed with a presentation by David and Miriam Barrie who serve in Malawi. We also welcomed Anderson Kamwendo of Malawi, highlighting a most interesting presentation of the Barrie's work.



- Miriam Barrie, Anderson Kamwendo and David Barrie at Synodical of Southwestern Ontario.

Head table guests at the evening banquet included Rev. Jan McIntire, Moderator of Synod, Audrey Webb, Deputy Mayor of Brockton, Rev. Alice Wilson, Moderator of Grey-Bruce-Maitland Presbytery, Rev. Dr. Andrew Human, minister of Knox, Helen McLeish, Carol Macowski, Vice President of Synodical, Kay Remus, and Pat Carpenter, co-convenor.

The evening began with a performance by the Knox choir, followed by Vespers. The evening concluded with a fellowship hour and a cake to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the host Presbyterial.

Two Bruce-Grey residents, Beatrice Scott and Eleanor (Knott) Crabtree, who both served in India, were in attendance.

On the Wednesday morning, reports were given by Rev. Gwen Brown, Camp Kintail and Spencer Edwards, Synod Youth Consultant. Erin Crisfield, Regional Staff conducted a bible study.

Nan and Hubert gave a slide presentation on their work in Malawi. Trish Heidbrecht, manager of The Book Room, gave reviews of new publications. The officers were installed by Rev. Alice Wilson.

PRESBYTERIAL

The 82nd Annual Meeting of the **Prince Albert** Presbyterial was held in **St. Paul's, Prince Albert, SK.** The theme was *Christ's Ambassadors.*

Special guest and speaker was Rev. Margaret Robertson, WMS Program Secretary. Others taking part were Beth Anne Yando, Jean Cockburn, Margaret Wilson and Bernice Shih.

Tribute was paid to 1998 deceased members, Lorine Stanley, Prince Albert and to Melba Codd and Margaret Boyd, both of Tisdale.

Presbyterial officers installed by Margaret Robertson were: President - Isabell Bannister, Secretary-Treasurer - Irene Soderlund, Historian, Publicity and Glad Tidings Secretary - Jean Cockburn.

Dr. Bob Stinson took the members of **Waterloo-Wellington** Presbyterial on a video trip to Malawi at their Annual Meeting held in **Westminster-St. Paul's, Guelph,** ON.

Dr. Stinson spent one year in the

mountains of Malawi teaching physics and mathematics in three schools. Although teaching trades, he also had the opportunity to show the will of God. In the work of such missionaries, the status of women is improving and their primary education is being encouraged.

What can we do to help? We can provide funds to buy such things as school supplies, a motorcycle for the minister or a bus for the schools.

Devotions were given by Janet Harrison of Westminster-St. Paul's.

Many interesting reports were heard by the approximately 70 members in attendance. The 'In Memoriam' was given by Maisie Lasby.

Rev. Shirley Gale conducted the installation of officers, with Jean Godin as new president.

Edmonton-Peace River Presbyterial held its Annual Meeting at **First Church** on March 6. President Norma Proudfoot welcomed members and friends.

Theme for the meeting was *Take courage, do not let your hand be weak, for your work shall be rewarded.*

Worship was led by Norma and the readers were Marjorie Scott, Laura Fenton and Ann Paterson. A short hymn sing was also led by Ann.

After lunch a workshop was held: A garden has bad stones. How can they be replaced with good ones? Each group was asked to replace three bad ones with three good ones, for example fear can be replaced by love.

Margaret Moar installed the officers for 1999.

Pauline Brown from Jobat in North India showed a video on her work and answered questions.

The president then presented the guest speaker with a gift as a token of our love and appreciation.

Mickey Johnston took the closing worship, ending with the litany response, 'Take my hands, Lord Jesus, and let them work for you'.

The 84th Annual Meeting of **East Toronto** Presbyterial was held in **Armour Heights Church, Toronto**, ON on February 27. The meeting opened with a hymn sing led by Joan Neilson and Gladys Anderson. Giollo Kelly convened the meeting. Rev. Bill Middleton warmly welcomed everyone to Armour Heights, which has recently been enhanced by the congregation of Melrose Park Church.

President Bev McWhinnie brought greetings as did Kingston Synodical.

Eva Powrie gave the devotions, based on Luke 1:14. Eva also provided an excellent book display.

Catherine Inglis from PWS&D and International Ministries gave a bright and informative review of her time as an Overseas Volunteer in India.

A prayer time was held for the many areas of Mission Outreach which the PCC and WMS support.

The Installation of Officers and the closing worship of 'Rejoicing and Praising God' was conducted by Rev. Lynda Reid.

The 85th Annual Meeting of **Montreal** Presbyterial was held at **Maisonneuve-St. Cuthbert's, Montreal**, Quebec on March 20. Presiding was President Grace Thornley-Brown. Greetings were extended for the host church by Dixie McBride.

Lillian Wilson gave the history of the church. The worship service was led by Rev. Coralie Jackson-Bissonette and the music by Scott Knarr.

After business and reports, an exer-

cise break was led by Grace Thornley-Brown.

Guest speaker was Dr. William Klempa, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

After lunch three women of Cote des Neiges church led the singalong. Trudy Meyer and Kevin MacDonald gave a report on Cuba.

Lois Klempa gave the report of the nominating committee and Lottie Sutherland installed the officers.

On March 11, the **Brockville** Presbyterial met in **St. Paul's, Winchester**, ON. President Henny Donkersteeg opened the meeting. An outline of this year's study "Partnership in Mission" was given by Ann Blane, area staff.

Mary Moorhead spoke of her trip to Korea last fall. She visited the Korean Church in Japan and learned of the work of Canadian missionaries there.

In Taiwan the group found the people very friendly and hospitable. They enjoyed a visit with Joy Randall, director of nurses in two hospitals.

Essex-Kent Presbyterial held the Annual Meeting at **Mount Zion Church, Ridgetown** on March 17. Rev. J. Neil gave a welcome from the host church and President Ruth Smith introduced Rev. Mary Templar of St. Andrew's, Dresden who led in devotions.

Mary and her family had emigrated from Africa and so she knows personally how it feels to be a displaced person.

Lily Jones of St. Andrew's, Windsor led the memorial service.

Following lunch, hosted by Bridgetown women, Carolyn Reid opened the afternoon session with an upbeat singalong.

Isabel Warwick introduced a video on uprooted persons which featured a reenactment of the Scots who landed at New Glasgow and their trials and tribulations.

Area staff Erin Crisfield installed the officers for 1999.

Pickering Presbyterial gathered at **St. Andrew's, Scarborough** for lunch with many varieties of soup prepared and served by the men and women of the congregation. Noelle Thomson presided at the book table.

Following lunch Lynda Reid led hymn singing accompanied by Eileen Carr. Beth Watling, President of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Women welcomed all giving a brief history of the church. Dr. Catherine Chalin and her husband, Dr. Ian Clarke, minister of Westminster, Scarborough, conducted the opening worship, reflecting our theme *Called as Partners*.

We then divided into three groups to visit partners in *Guatemala* - Lynda Reid discussed her visit last August; the *Out of the Cold Program*- Sharon explained this program in downtown Toronto; *Kenya* - Catherine and Ian spoke of how they removed boys from the city streets and found a home for

Lord of the loving heart, may mine be loving too,
Lord of the gentle hands, may mine be gentle too,
Lord of the willing feet, may mine be willing too,
So I may grow more like thee in all I say and do. Anon

Thought For The Day...

Net Work Vol. 23 No 4 May 1999

Janet Austen led a brief In Memoriam service. Hilda Clarke extended courtesies. She outlined St. David's Food Bank history, over 30 years.

Lorna Teare, President of Toronto-Kingston Synodical, installed the officers. Lorna closed with worship.

At the Annual Meeting of **Bruce-Grey** Presbyterial, held April 8, in **Erskine Church, Dundalk**, the theme was *Milleninum Mission: My Master and Me.*

Following a spritely hymn sing, President Kay Remus, Walkerton, welcomed the 60 members who represented 17 WMS organizations including the Tara WMS whose group has been disbanded.

Ida Hume led in worship. Following business, Erin Crisfield, area staff introduced the Bible Study "Sounding the Trumpet for Jubilee."

The afternoon session came to order with a hymn sing and a solo by Annie May Whitten.

Special speaker Carol Mackowski, Southampton, in her presentation "The Ultimate Millenium Experience", addressed some of the practical aspects of the millenium.

Through small groups in a "scrabble-like activity" eight required blocks for survival were identified: faith, service, laughter or joy, publicity, compassion, commitment, flexibility and communication.

Maggie King has been the Glad Tidings Secretary of Tempo WMS for more than 50 years. She has always participated fully in activities, bringing a bright, smiling personality. She is the mother of three children (her son is now deceased), eight grandchildren and a number of great grandchildren. She creates beautiful hairpin lace afghans.

ANNIVERSARY

Stamford WMS celebrated its 50th Anniversary at the April 25 church service. Two founding members, Mrs Walter Anderson and Bessie Graham were present. Eleanor Gauld was unable to attend.

Donna Jackson, a Knox College student ministered to us. She spoke on Jesus the Good Shepherd, and the renditions of the choir, Junior choir and the hymns were based around her message.

The new officers were inducted by Helen McLeish, President of Synodical. Nancy Miller, President of Niagara Presbyterial led in the Responsive Readings.

After the well attended services, the congregation went to the new Walker Wiong for cake.

We have "adopted" some of the Drummond Hill women and our society will now be called Stamford Presbyterian and Drummond Hill WMS. We really appreciate these new members.

LOCAL

A Tribute to Our Friend

We thank God for the life of our friend **Ruby Wilson**, who passed away suddenly, in her ninety-seventh year.

Her faithfulness to God, the Church, and our WMS gives an excellent example to follow and serve the Lord with gladness.

Ruby passed away one week after being active with her WMS friends. She was a very generous and gracious woman. As usual, she came with a box of homemade goodies. Ruby was thoughtful, caring and sharing, with her garden, as well.

Ruby loved to entertain and visit. She was a wonderful person and always willing to help whenever needed.

We all will remember Ruby and will miss her but will carry on in thanksgiving in her memory.

- The WMS of St. Andrew's-Chalmers, Uxbridge, ON

Knox, Morrisburg WMS Family Night was held April 15. Ruth Kirkwood opened the meeting, welcoming all Explorers, COC, WMS members, parents and friends.

Myrtle Wingeat led the worship. Ruth Kirkwood told a story, "The White Goose Feathers", about telling the truth, being kind to others and not being envious.

Greetings were extended from Brockville Presbyterial by Henny Donkersteeg who also assisted Goldie Britton in presenting certificates and pins to 14 COC members. Stella Smith and Goldie were presented with life memberships and Myrtle Wingeat received the new WMS pin for all her help with the COC and the Explorers the past nine years.

Money presentations from the two groups were received by Jan Wood for our foster child and Henny Donkersteeg received a donation for mission work and the special offering to go to school children in Guatemala.

Rev. Greg Blatch and Henny Donkersteeg presented certificates to eight new Explorers, another seven received stars for their work and three are graduating this year.

The Explorer group presented a rap "The Good Samaritan and company, You gotta get involved if you're traveling to heaven."

Special entertainment was a puppet show put on by "The King Kids and Company".

Rev. Greg Blatch closed with the benediction.

The latest Life members of **St. Paul's, Winchester**, ON are Violet Reaney and Iva Stewart, honoured in March and February 1999 respectively.

Lucy (Glass) Smart of **Penticton**, BC died on February 28, 1999 after a short illness.

Lucy was beloved by all who knew her, whether as a caring Elder, as an active member and officer of the WMS in the local auxiliary, Presbyterial, Synodical, or as a delegate to Council.

Lucy was an asset not only in her church, but in the community where she was active member of the Diamond Jubilee Chapter IODE, volunteering in the Thrift Shop.

Lucy was born in Glasgow, Scotland on March 28, 1929. She is lovingly remembered by her husband David, one daughter, three sons and five grandchildren, as well as one brother and five sisters.

A celebration of the life of Lucy Smart was held on March 3 at St. Andrew's, Penticton when traditional Scottish music was played in the Prelude and Recessional.

Norval Sunday School room was gaily decorated with bright tablecloths and flowers, as well as bright paper God's eyes, made by the Sunday School children, when Norval Alexander Auxiliary

joined with the Sunday School teachers to present a Guatemalan dinner on March 26.

About 60 guests gathered to enjoy the food, made by the women, from the Guatemalan recipes in the current mission study. Lynda Reid, area staff, gave an account of her trip to that country. Lynda led the Sunday School children in a rhythm band and told them about Francisco Coll, the school in the dump.

The evening raised awareness and almost $160 was contributed towards a scholarship for a pupil of the school.

LIVING STONES

いのちある石たち

What Do Church Pews Know?

In his new book, "Along the Timber Line", Bill Moody has a unique way of highlighting some pertinent church concerns. The reader will enjoy the 'Timbre of Truth' portrayed by Jack Pine, Mary Maple, Oscar Oak, Sally Cedar, and others in the twelve chapter titles, such as "Why Go to Church?", "Say it With Music", "It's in the Book", "Take me to Your Leader", "The Other Rib"!

Send $5.95 plus $1.50 for mailing to Rev. W. H. Moody, 413-3097 Palmer Drive, Burlington, ON L7M 4G8. Please mention where you saw this ad.

CIRCULATION NEWS

Katherine Allen
Circulation Manager

In the last issue of Glad Tidings we asked if your group has elected a new Glad Tidings Secretary since last fall to please send the name into the office as soon as possible. This is just a reminder of how important it is to have this information so that we can send the summer mailing to the proper source.

Are you or anyone else having problems with delivery of the magazine? If so, please check with your local post office. If they cannot help, please contact the Glad Tidings office and we will check our records.

As you know promotion is an ongoing process. This is the time of year when you can begin promoting the magazine within your congregation for the fall. A few promotional ideas would be to talk about the magazine and the interesting articles it contains on a special Sunday or to individuals; give a copy of the magazine to anyone in your congregation; create your own Glad Tidings display and have extra copies available to hand out. If you have ideas about promotion and want to share with others, mail them to the Glad Tidings office.

To help with your promotion of the Glad Tidings magazine we can supply you with up to 50 copies of the Glad Tidings. Please contact the WMS office indicating the number of copies and name of congregation. The Glad Tidings is for everyone, not just WMS groups.

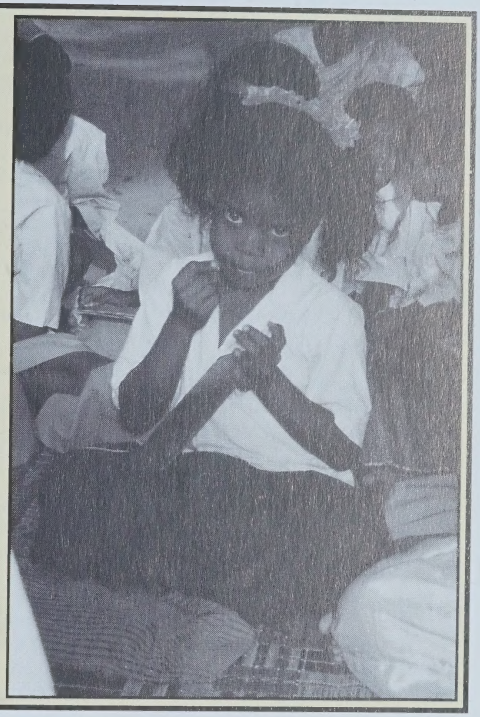
Overcoming poverty can seem overwhelming.

Through education, primary health care, small loan and agriculture programs PWS&D's partners in Africa, Asia, and Central America are finding sustainable solutions to poverty.

Working together we are making a difference.

Presbyterian World Service & Development

50 Wynford Drive Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
tel: 416-441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301
pwsd@presbyterian.ca
www.presbyterian.ca



IN REMEMBRANCE

Miss Mary Muirhead
Knox, Agincourt, ON

Mrs. Emilie Bell
St. Andrew's, Barrie, ON

Mrs. Irene Nagy
Central, Brantford, ON

Mrs. Margaret Hepburn
Cooke's, Chilliwack, BC

Mary Stewart
Knox, Dundas, ON

Mrs. D. N. (Catherine) MacRae
Kenyon, Dunvegan, ON

Mrs. Rena Hastie
Durham, ON

Mrs. Bernice Leitch
Burns Mosa, Glencoe, ON

Ruth Quarrie
Knox, Guelph, ON

Mrs. D. Jean Cottingham
St. Andrew's, Kingston, ON

Mrs. Minnie McLean
St. Andrew's, Kirkfield, ON

Mrs. Edith Irene Saxby
St. George's, London, ON

Mrs. Retta (Burtwistle) McAleece
Tempo, London, ON

Mrs. Flora Black
Knox, Milton, ON

Mrs. Rennie (Gertrude) Macklem
St. Andrew's, Owen Sound, ON

Lucy Glass Smart
St. Andrew's, Penticton, B C

Mrs. Ruth (Neil) Doan
Port Colborne, ON

Betty Murray
St. Andrew's, Scarborough, ON

Mrs. Edith McArthur
St. Mary's, ON

Mrs. Ruth (Gordon) Pye
Calvin, Toronto, ON

Mrs. Lila Gregory
Mrs. Emily Watt
St. Andrew's Welland, ON

Annie Conn
St. Andrew's, Wingham, ON

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

Mary Moorhead
R. R. 3
Spencerville, ON K0E 1X0

PAST PRESIDENT

Esther Powell
5802 - 19th Avenue
Markham, ON L3P 3J3

VICE PRESIDENT
(vacant)

SECRETARY

Jean Rankine
1030 Lillian Street
Willowdale, ON M2M 3G3

TREASURER

Giollo Kelly
1148 Broadview Avenue
Toronto, ON M4K 2S5

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE SECRETARY

Mary-Lou Johnston
5850 Hutchison Street
Outrement, QC H2V 4C1

MEMBERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

Shirley Barnhart
139 Denistoun Street
Welland, ON L3C 1V3

Jean Dancey
#208 - 124 Park Road North
Oshawa, ON L1J 4L4

Jean Edmunds
162 St. George Street
Mitchell, ON N0K 1N0

Fleur Eenkhoorn
311 Michigan Avenue
Point Edward, ON N7V 1G1

Dineke Kraay
519 Tobin Crescent
Saskatoon, SK S7K 4N7

Jung Sook Lee
76 Lombard Street, Apt. 502
Toronto, ON M5C 3A5

Pauline Lindsay
R. R. #6
St. Thomas, ON N5P 3T1

Noreen Marshall
23 Didrickson Drive
Willowdale, ON M2P 1J7

Margaret McCullough
207 Sunnyside Drive
London, ON N5X 3R1

Ian Morrison
General Secretary
Life and Mission Agency
50 Wynford Drive
North York, ON M3C 1J7

Margaret Reynolds
Box 511
Morrisburg, ON K0C 1X0

Florence Ross
1012 - 1 Massey Square
Toronto, ON M4C 5L4

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
(SYNODICAL PRESIDENTS)

Marg Befus
6223 Dalton Drive N.W.
Calgary, AB T3A 1E1

Ina Borger
309 Lamont Blvd
Winnipeg, MB R3P 0G2

June Campbell
24 Thorncrest Road
Barrie, ON L4N 3P9

Elizabeth McLagan
#214, 22015 - 48th Avenue
Langley, BC V3A 8L3

Helen McLeish
324 Dorchester Street,
Box 323
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
L0S 1J0

Bernice Shih
#106, 537 - 4th Ave. N.,
Saskatoon, SK S7K 2M6

Lottie Sutherland
P. O. Box 413
Westport, ON K0G 1X0

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jean Dancey
Mary Jack
Audrey Nettleton
May Nutt
Barbara Woodruff

STAFF

Executive Secretary
Charlotte Brown

Program Secretary
Margaret Robertson

Editor
L. June Stevenson

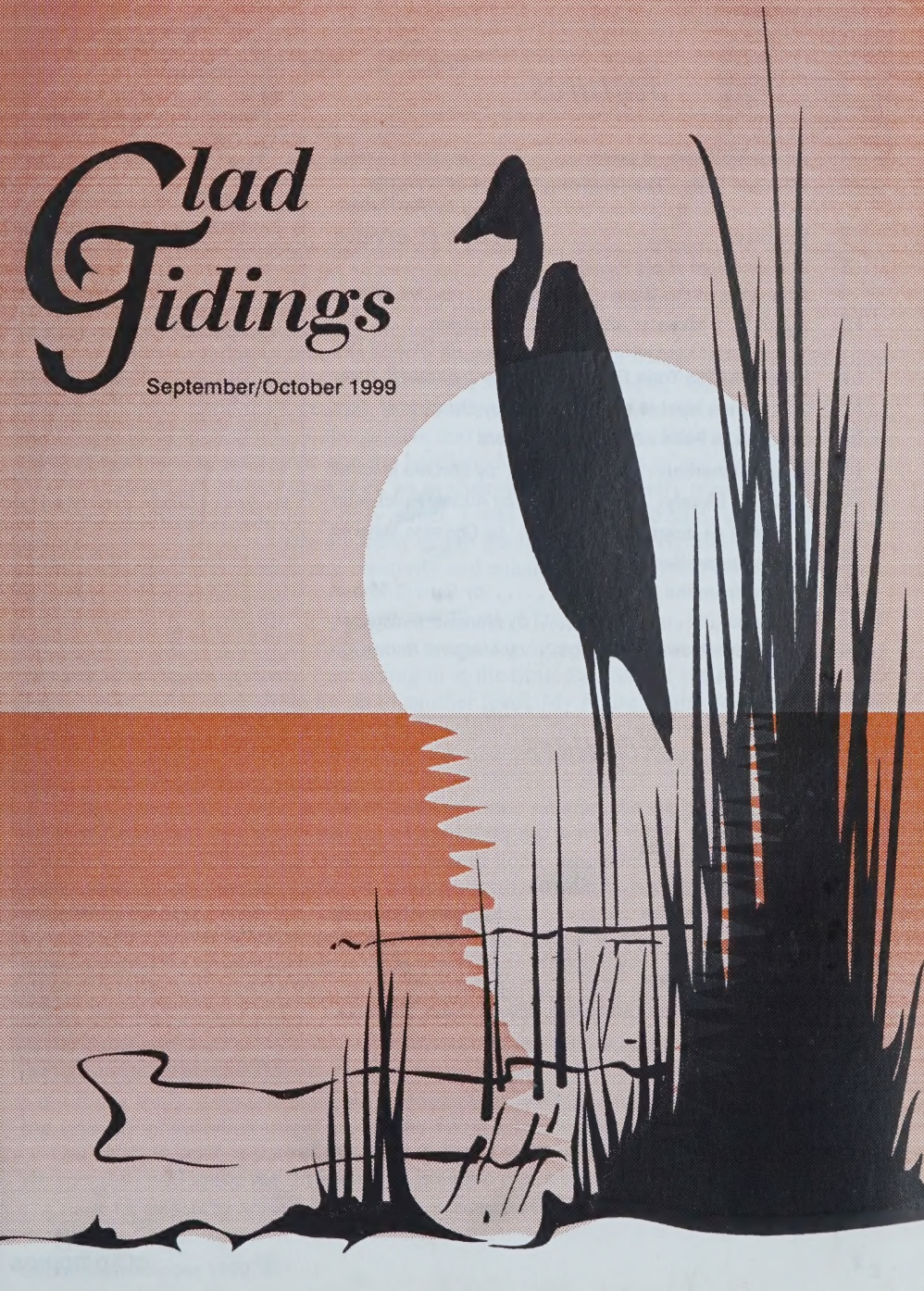
Manager, WMS Book Room
Trish Heidebrecht

Glad Tidings is printed on recycled paper

Please report any errors/changes in address.

Glad Tidings

September/October 1999



Contents

Features

4 **Autumn Adagio - a poem** ..... *by Laura Cornett*
5 **All Good Gifts - Thanksgiving Service of Worship** ..... *by Joy Hunter*
7 **Promises** ..... *by Doris M. Johnston*
8 **In Memoriam - Lois Powrie**
9 **Countries of the Bible - a puzzle** ..... *by Jim Phillips*
10 **Poem for a Minister and a Friend - a poem** ..... *by Richard Ball*
11 **Where is This Train Going?** .... *by J. Elizabeth Ritter*
12 **The Crow's Nest -a poem** ..... *by Elizabeth M. Tayti*
13 **Stitches of Faith - Calling all Quilters**
15 **Good Samaritan - a poem.** ..... *by Barbara Mitchell*
16 **Alone or Lonely** ..... *by Audrey Hutcheson*
17 **A Friend - a poem** ..... *by Christina Maxwell*
18 **Presbyterian News Bytes**
20 **A View from the Arab World** ..... *by Rami G. Khouri*
22 **A poem.** ..... *by Marlowe C. Dickson*
24 **Program - New Beginnings** .. *by Margaret Robertson*

Regulars

3 **Written in Love**
12 **Our Readers Write**
19 **Forward in Faith**
23 **Seniors on the Go** ..... *by Norma Tomlinson*
27 **"I"-Witness**
28 **Books/Resources**
31 **Mission in Action** - *McMullen, Allison, Jones, Barsoum*
37 **News**
41 **In the Society**
46 **Circulation News**
47 **In Remembrance**

Glad Tidings

Sept./Oct. 1999
Volume 75 No.5

EDITOR:
L. JUNE STEVENSON
CIRCULATION MANAGER:
KATHERINE ALLEN

Published six times a year by the Women's Missionary Society, W.D. of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, 50 Wynford Drive, North York, Ont. M3C 1J7. Tel. 1 (416) 441-1111. Fax 1 (416) 441-2825. Publications mail registration number 09517. ISSN: 00170720.

Member of the Canadian Church Press and the Associated Church Press.

Subscription rate for 1998 $10.00 including G.S.T. per year. Single copies $1.70. W.M.S. members should send their subscriptions through their group Glad Tidings Secretary. Individual subscribers may order direct from Glad Tidings. Please make all money orders and cheques payable at par to Glad Tidings.

GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

Written in Love

L. June Stevenson, Editor

September 1999

Coming Home

It has been said that "from the moment we are born, we seem compelled to travel homeward. ...Home is the goal of the epic journeys of the human spirit. Jesus returns to his heavenly Father. Moses leads his people to their homeland. Buddha reaches the immovable spot of enlightenment beneath the bo tree."[1]

On my 60th birthday in June I bought a house. I knew even before I saw the inside that it was right for me. I sat on the front verandah and said to myself, "I'm home."

It might have been the spreading maple tree on the front lawn. Or the pear tree in the back yard. Or the tree house in the garden, and the garage with its little curtained window. Or it might have been the attic and the hardwood floors. Shades of my childhood!

My search for a home began with an evaluation of what I really wanted in life. After ten years in an apartment on a busy street, I was fed up with traffic, noise and dust. I longed to step outside, to have a garden and to get to know my neighbours. I yearned for a place where I could express my creativity and enhance my innermost needs and dreams. I wanted to 'go home'.

Later I said to someone, "It is my dream house." Then I thought, No, it is *the house of my dreams*. I have had a recurring house dream for over forty years. I am standing in my childhood home or the house I am living in at the time. Suddenly I see a door that wasn't there before, or a staircase going up to another level. My house begins to open up. There is room to grow, to expand. Psychologists would say that such a dream, metaphorically, reveals an openness to new experiences and new possibilities. Today, in a very physical sense, my dream is being realized.

In the spiritual sense, the notion of coming home satisfies the soul's yearning to belong to the earth, to feel at peace with oneself and with the world. When we are at home with ourselves, we are at one with God. Jesus was at home wherever he went because he was clear about his purpose on earth. He came to earth, fulfilled his purpose and went home to be with his father.

A physical home is an extension of your inner self. It is a place where you can surround yourself with things that nurture your soul. "The journey homeward can find its goal in a place that invites you to bring forth who you truly are and what you want to become."[2]

I treasure old family portraits and heirlooms. In my new house I will be able to display the mementos that speak to who I am and from where I have come: my great-grandfather's hand made tools; a dresser scarf my grandmother lovingly embroidered; a wooden writing case my grandfather made; my parent's first kitchen table; my children's baby shoes.

Our time on earth is part of our journey home to be with God. However and wherever we spend it, will make the difference in how we feel when we truly 'come home'.

1. A Home for the Soul by Anthony Lawlor. Clarkson Potter/Publishers. NY. 1997
2. ibid

Autumn Adagio

Leaves create a cacophony of colour,
With skeletons of green,
And membranes of yellow, orange and red.
Like a silent symphony
They fall,
Defying the imminent blackness of death.

Geese call out overhead
As they fly south,
Leaving the cold behind.
On the ground, squirrels stuff their mouths
With acorns,
Scurrying to hide leftovers,
For the bleak months ahead.

Harvest smells of pumpkin pie,
Relishes and strawberry jam,
Applesauce and vegetables
Fill the mason jars,
Lining the pantry shelves.
Is life coming or is it going?

A sharp, biting wind
Bends the tree branches one day;
A warm, Indian summer breeze
Caresses their foliage
The next.

All the while evergreens proclaim perpetual life,
And mockingly challenge,
"Is it summer or is it winter?"

I want to live and die like an autumn adagio,
With lots of colour and memories,
Singing joyously the ambivalent question:
"Is life coming or is it going?"

Laura Cornett

All Good Gifts

Thanksgiving Service of Worship

by Joy Hunter

NOTE: Before the service invite participants to bring items for a local food bank or other selected place.

Call to Worship: Psalm 67 NRSV

Leader: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,

People: that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

Leader: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

People: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon the earth.

Leader: Let the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you.

People: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

Leader: May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

Hymn # 443 When all thy mercies, O my God (1997 Book of Praise) (#99 1972 BOP)

Scripture Reading: Luke 12:15-21 (The Parable of the Rich Fool). The reading reminds us of a right attitude towards the good gifts that God gives us in abundance.

Procession: A procession of people bringing harvest fruit and vegetables to the altar led by a cross designed of corn stalks or autumn foliage.

Scripture Reading : Jeremiah 29:12-14

Prayer:
Leader: We praise you Lord for your extravagant love and the abundant gifts

you pour out on your children. What can we do in response to such great love? Please help us not to be indifferent to the suffering in the world. Thank you for the work of persons like Mother Teresa who have contributed immeasurably to the growth of human awareness.

Voice l: May we be loving people who give a drink to someone who is thirsty, and food to someone who is hungry.

Voice 2: May we take the time to listen to someone who is sad, and to speak out against injustice.

Voice 3: May we care enough to visit someone in hospital or in prison.

Leader: Please teach us, Lord, to walk in your love as your beloved children and as we do so may we bring wholeness and healing to other travelers on the journey. Thank you that you have made us co-creators, and that you do not abandon us to struggle alone, but accompany us in every situation we encounter. May we be people with grateful hearts who say "yes" to all that you wish to do in us and through us. Amen

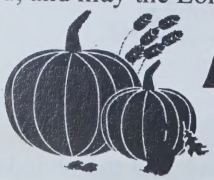
Hymn # 760 Where cross the crowded ways of life (verses 1, 4-6) (#496 1972 BOP) During the singing of the hymn the people can gather and arrange the food in baskets ready for distribution.

Offering and Offertory Prayer
Leader: Thank you, Loving God, that all good gifts around us are sent from heaven above. We praise you for all your love. Please bless these gifts. May they be a blessing to those who receive them. In Jesus name. Amen.

Unison Reading: In the bulb there is a flower (#674 1997 Book of Praise)

Hymn # 338 Let all things now living (1997 BOP) OR #103 Now thank we all our God (1972 BOP)

Leader: Blessing
May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord cause His face to shine upon you, and may the Lord be gracious unto you and give you His peace. Amen



Happy Thanksgiving

Promises

by Doris M. Johnston

A New Year's resolution is a promise made to oneself. But how long do we keep it? Did I keep my promise to my child when I said I would get Grandpa's book down from the attic? Did I stick to my diet? Did I visit my neighbour when she asked me to? I knew that her husband was working out of town and she was lonely.

My intentions were good, but the minutes sped by, and at the end of the day, when it was too late, I found I had forgotten to do those things I said I would. It is so gratifying to know that God does not break promises.

This morning I woke up with a thought, a promise. I'm not sure why this particular promise should have come to me, but there it was. "What ever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." (Mark 11:24 NRSV)

Well, maybe I do know. I have been thinking a lot about my friend who lost her job when the plant where she worked closed down unexpectedly. For someone age fifty, jobs are scarce, especially for women. I will pray that she finds work, remembering that I will receive as a result of my prayer, that which I think, not what I say. *Ask and it shall be given you.* What would be more simple. What more could we want.

I'm glad that God doesn't say, 'if', but 'I will'. "As thou goest step by step, I will open up the way before thee." What a beautiful promise.

Martin Luther said, "Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection not in books alone but in every leaf of springtime." An

ugly cocoon is a promise of a beautiful butterfly.

God's promise is an assurance. Proverbs 1:33 says, "but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster."

IN MEMORIAM

Lois Powrie

Former Women's Missionary Society staff member, Lois Powrie, died suddenly on Thursday July 22. She had been in failing health for some time. Lois had been living in Mount Forest, Ontario where a private family service was held on July 24. Interment was in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto where Lois' parents are buried. Rev. Lynda Reid officiated.

Lois retired from the position of National Secretary for Children's and Teenage Work, in 1992. She was appointed to this position in May 1979. Her devotion to young people and her advocacy on their behalf was characteristic of how she applied herself to the work. The place of children and teens in the church was a priority and she was always alert to ways they could be included in worship and congregational activities.

Close to Lois' heart was CGIT (Canadian Girls in Training). For many years she represented the Presbyterian Church on the National CGIT Committee. She helped with their newsletter and vesper services, giving leadership training and keeping the importance of CGIT before congregations. Lois served on the Board of Armagh, formerly a home for single expectant mothers, then a hostel for women and children.

As part of her work with the WMS, Lois developed mission education and program materials for children and early teens. For many years Lois wrote the annual Offering Project which was used by many groups to raise funds for a project involving young people. Lois was creative and innovative in this work. She represented the Church on the Program Committee for Education for Mission, Friendship Press, New York, and shared her creative leadership with this interdenominational group.

- Lois Powrie

Lois came on the staff of the WMS in 1961 as Regional Secretary for the Synod of Montreal-Ottawa, representing both the Society and the Board of Christian Education. She was transferred to the Synod of Toronto and Kingston in September 1964, serving first as Regional Secretary for the Synod. Later she was appointed to the Presbyteries of East and West Toronto, and Kingston to serve as Area Educational Consultant.

Born and educated in Toronto, Lois graduated in 1956 from the Presbyterian Missionary and Deaconess Training School (which later became Ewart College). She was designated to the Order of Deaconesses that same year. Lois was very involved in the Order of Diaconal Ministries nationally and internationally.

Before joining the WMS, Lois served as Deaconess in Victoria Presbyterian Church, Toronto, as Executive Secretary responsible for Girls' Work for the Toronto Religious Education Council, and as Programme Director for the YMCA in Peterborough, Ontario.

One of Lois' many gifts was a beautiful singing voice which she used in church choirs and in leading the musical activities of groups. She gave unstintingly of her time and energy in everything in which she was involved.

Lois had a zest for life and a love for all. She was very close to her family, sister Laura and brother Erwin (who predeceased her), her sister-in-law Eva and her many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. She will be missed by all who knew and appreciated her beautiful spirit.

Countries of the Bible

by Jim Phillips

P G C L F A K P V
T H R A C I A C M
D N O M M A B A A
G R E E C E C N I
N H E J N E A A R
O M I N D I I A Y
L L M O A B C N S
Y A N N H C Y I S
B I K A J I L U A
A R A B I A S I A
B Y P E R S I A Q
A S G L E A R S I
T Y S Z E G Y P T
N Q F H M E D I A
N P M V A Y B I L
U M A L E D O M Y
O R S E Y T U X W
B R D W F O X J Z

AMMON
ARABIA
ASIA
ASSYRIA
BABYLON
CANAAN
EDOM
EGYPT
ELAM
GREECE
ISRAEL
ITALY
JUDAH
LEBANON
LIBYA
LYCIA
MACEDONIA
MEDIA
MOAB
PERSIA
PHOENICIA
SYRIA
THRACIA

POEM FOR A MINISTER AND A FRIEND
by Richard Ball

Richard (Dick) Ball composed this poem in 1964 for my husband, Doug Crocker, just prior to our moving to a new charge in Toronto. Richard was the choir director of Rupert Street Presbyterian Church in Edmonton (now called Dayspring P.C.). (Richard died in 1968.) Doug was their minister for 14 years and served another 31 years at Iona P.C., Willowdale. He was also a chaplain in the Canadian navy.

This poem was something he treasured as a minister. He died in 1994 but, as his wife, I think this poem addresses a meaningful message to all ministers. Being a minister's granddaughter, a minister's wife, and mother of a minister I know from a lifetime of experience in the church that ministers receive a lot of criticism and, thankfully, are also blessed with wonderful friendships.

- Dorothy Crocker

Edmonton, Alberta July 30th, 1964

TO THE REVEREND D.L. CROCKER

The Minister:
How many times have you said to yourself:
Can I satisfy each soul -
Should I be the minister they want -
Will it help them attain the goal?

Or should I stay the way I am,
And hold my beliefs intact,
It's hypocritical to change and
With each person put on an act.

Many here feel that your choice was wise
To remain the man that you be,
To hold your belief in your fellow man's eyes
For sundry and all to see.

There's no doubt it cost you a few from the fold,
But it brought you a few in return,
Your teachings for all must never grow old,
Retain this as your main concern.

And now that you're leaving, you've saddened the hearts
Of those people who, through the years
Thought you, as a Minister, did the right things
To allay and to quieten fears.

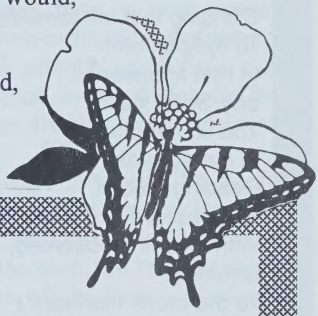
The Friend:
A man can't explain how a friendship begins,

Or know just how soon one will start.
It slowly infiltrates 'til suddenly
You know that it's there in your heart.

To walk to a door at the dusk of the day
With the tensions of world on your mind,
It's a pleasure to sit with a friend for awhile,
And feel all the cares drop behind.

This is the kind of a friend you have been
To many of us here today,
And I'm sure if all could speak what they would,
That this is what they'd like to say:

We will all miss you as a Pastor and friend,
And we echo the age-old refrain:
"May the presence of God the Almighty
Be with you 'til we meet again."



Where is This Train Going?

by J. Elizabeth Ritter

The night was dark. Dark, still and empty. Not a sound penetrated the open window, not a car horn, nor a dog's bark, nor a tiny cricket's chirping.

I lay very still. The pain couldn't find me. My body felt strangely light, weightless.

Out of the hollow of the night arose the sweetest melody, the whistle of a midnight train, long gone from the Valley. And suddenly, as I listened, an apparition appeared before me - the train's conductor, but his clothes were all white.

"Have you any luggage, ma'am?" he asked.

In wonderment, I replied, "No luggage, none at all."

Gently, he picked up my useless, withered body and carried me to the door. There in a most brilliant light, stood, not the lumbering black giant of my recollection, but a gleaming silver bullet.

"Where is this train going?" I inquired.

"First class, ma'am; you're going first class," he replied with a smile.

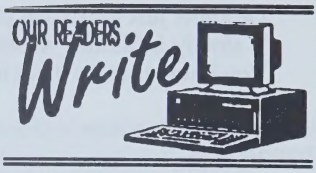
As he carefully sat me down in the shining compartment, I could feel the pres ence of many others. Glancing down, I found my own weakened body had disappeared, but I could see, hear and feel as never before. My senses were sharpened beyond my wildest imagination.

A strange joy surrounded me: an elation never before experienced filled my soul, and with a gasp of delight, and knowledge aforehand, I asked once more, "Where is this train going?"

The Crow's Nest

Living in a small village
For a girl
Seemed a restricted way of life.
You run down
The foot trodden trail
Through the overgrown woods
Your heart in your mouth.
Climbing that tall towering pole
To the platform
In that abandoned
Boy Scout camp.
You lie forgotten
In the solitude
Reading a book.
You observe
Without being observed.
Listening
To the brook murmur
Wind in the trees
Odd sound of hiker's boots
Striking stones
Sensing the presence
Of God
Eternity
Oneness with surroundings
Until the setting sun
beckons you home
refreshed in spirit.
It all brings a smile
Many years later
Reminding you
The woman still uses
Books, and quiet places
As a means of escape
From the turmoil of today
Knowing God is still with her.

Elizabeth M. Tayti



Re: *WMS Gift Reaches Ukraine*, July/August 1999 Glad Tidings:

Would you mind if I pointed out a source of irritation to Ukrainians which may appear trivial but stems from a manipulation of history by the Russians as they gobbled up their helpless neighbours, and as such is unacceptable to Ukrainians? The problem is the word "the" which the Russians began to place before the name "Ukraine" in the early years of domination, in an attempt to relegate the country to a geographical location in Russia, such as in "the Prairies", "the North", "the Steppes", devoid of political significance. Ukraine is a nation several hundred years older than the Russian nation.

Nowhere, where the name of a nation state occurs, does the word "the" precede it. One does not say "the Canada", "the Russia", or "the France". The use of the word "the" in front of "Ukraine" reminds a Ukrainian of the most bitter period of subjugation and terror. It would be an affirming step if the English-speaking world would revert to the correct title and delete the offending article.

Thanks for 'letting' me get that off my chest, and my apologies for intruding the information into a letter which I hope still conveys my appreciation of your kindness in writing and publishing the article about the hymnbooks and the Semeniuks.

Sincerely,

Rhoda Melinyshyn

Stitches of Faith - Calling all Quilters

The "Celebrate" Committee of the Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a Millennium Quilting Exhibit. The exhibit will be displayed at the General Assembly in Hamilton in June 2000. From the work received, travelling exhibits will be assembled and made available to any church or interested group from June 2000 to December 2001.

Whether you are an individual or work in a group, there is an opportunity for you to participate in this project. The minimum size for submission is 100 cm (40") square and the maximum size is a double bed-sized quilt. In between the minimum and maximum there is scope for any size of quilted piece. For example, a banner size or other interesting shaped hanging.

The Celebrate Committee has in its mandate the Celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Millennium and the Jubilee Initiative. The subject matter of the quilting should reflect some aspect of these very broad themes.

The design of the submission could reflect a very personal expression of your faith. Perhaps an historical subject captures your imagination, either from your local area or some part of Canada. The Millennium gives you the scope of the last 2000 years and the influence Christ has had down through the ages. Looking ahead to the next millennium, the vision of the future could be captured in your work.

The Jubilee Initiative covers a wide variety of concerns, from debt forgiveness to the healing of the human community by sharing, caring, confronting race, gender, age, cultural and environmental concerns and proclaiming the Good News to the world.

Quilting requires considerable artistic talent from the initial concept to the completion of the design. The creators gather all manner of pieces of textile, chosen for their particular colour, pattern and texture, which will blend into and enhance the larger concept.

Quilt makers have a keen sense of design, colour co-ordination, mathematical precision and artistry and, with expert stitchery, patience, love and tenacity, bring into being the fruition of their creative dream.

In many ways this beautiful art form reflects our life together in the church. We have a Master Designer. Our lives, like the fragments of the quilt, are brought together to enhance the whole design. Each of us adds our special colour, pattern and texture to the larger plan God has for us.

All of us are connected by the invisible thread of faith which brings together the beauty, joy and truth of the Master Designer.

The entry form for the exhibit is to be received by March 1, 2000 and the completed work by May 15, 2000. The work will remain with the displays until the completion of the travelling exhibits December 2001. At that time the quilting will be returned to the owners.

If you would like a brochure, more information on the exhibit, or if you are interested in sponsoring an exhibit contact:

Sheila Kirkland, Convenor of the Quilting Exhibit
431 Oakside Circle, SW
Calgary AB T2V 4V3
telephone: (403) 281-6606
fax: (403) 255-1302 (St. Andrew's Church)

Women's World March 2000

Note to WMS groups: There is a plan to hold a world march of women in the year 2000. that comes out of the experience of the Women's March Against Poverty, in Québec, 1995. This march, initiated by the Fédération des femmes du Québec, was hugely successful. Three contingents of 850 women marched for ten days to win nine demands related to economic justice. Fifteen thousand people greeted them at the end of their ten-day walk. The entire women's movement mobilized for the march as did many other segments of the population.

The presence during the 1995 March of twenty women from countries of the South reminded us of the importance of global solidarity-building. The Beijing Conference proved that women everywhere are struggling for equality, development and peace more than ever before. It was at this conference that we made our first proposal to organize an international women's march.

Action Scenarios

Several possible scenarios for national and world actions are meant to stimulate international discussions.

World March of Women: Actions

Three levels of action have been proposed for the March.

* There will be an action demonstrating women's mass support for the world demands, signified by signing support cards.
* Women's movements in each country will organize national actions that will present demands reflecting their realities and priorities (related to the issues of poverty and violence against women).
* One or several world demonstrations or rallies will be held. The entire project is to be developed and supported by a process of popular education. The actions will begin March 8, 2000, and end October 17, 2000, with the world rallies.

Signing Up

The World March of Women in the Year 2000 is not an organization or an agency (with a legal status or a charter) with members. It is a project for collective action in which women participate actively, which is why we have been asking groups interested in joining in the action to send us a sign-up coupon. Then they become participating groups in the project.

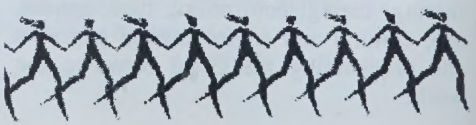
Joining the World March in the Year 2000 Means:

* making a commitment and adopting the project as your own;
* encouraging other groups in your country to join the project and working in tandem with them;
* wanting to help organize actions being planned nationally and internationally;
* wanting to participate in the popular education campaign where you live;
* passing on information about the March to members of your group, inviting them to have discussions and mobilizing them to act.

The WMS is connected to this project through its representation on the Women's Inter-Church Council (WICC). WICC is a member of the Canadian Coordinating Committee and will be the liaison group connecting interested churches with the broader movement of the Women's March against Poverty and Violence Against Women. It is expected that each community will be organizing its own events (which may or may not include an actual march). Church groups are encouraged to make links with other local groups that will be participating and work together on planning a series of actions and events beginning March 8, 2000 and culminating in a major event October 17, 2000. National planning is still in the very initial stages and more information will be available in the fall through the Women's Inter-Church Council and the Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative.

For more information contact:

Norah McMurty, WICC, 394 Bloor St W Ste 201, Toronto ON M5S 1X4.
Phone (416) 929-5184. Fax: (416) 929-4064.
Email:mcmurtry@wicc.org



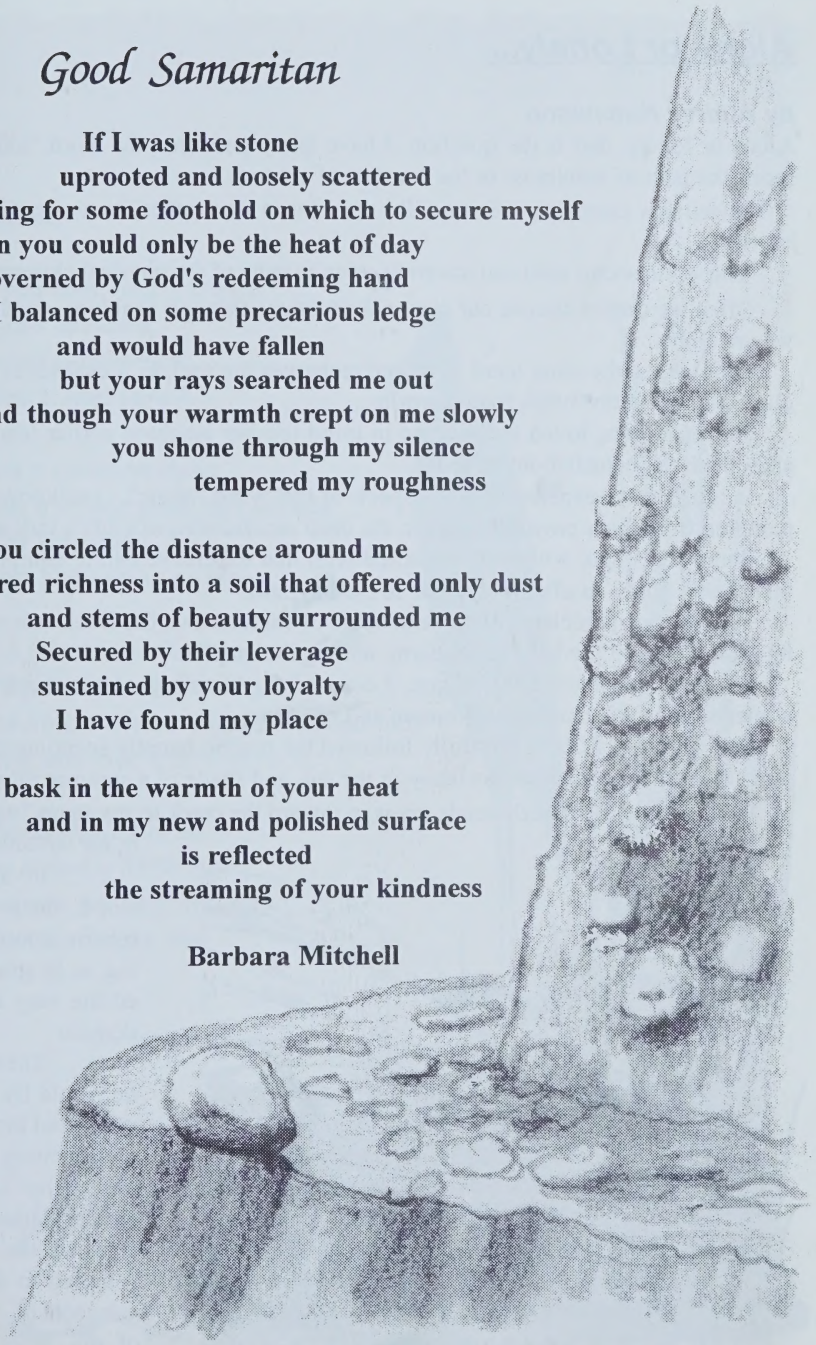
Good Samaritan

If I was like stone
uprooted and loosely scattered
struggling for some foothold on which to secure myself
then you could only be the heat of day
governed by God's redeeming hand
for I balanced on some precarious ledge
and would have fallen
but your rays searched me out
and though your warmth crept on me slowly
you shone through my silence
tempered my roughness

You circled the distance around me
poured richness into a soil that offered only dust
and stems of beauty surrounded me
Secured by their leverage
sustained by your loyalty
I have found my place

I bask in the warmth of your heat
and in my new and polished surface
is reflected
the streaming of your kindness

Barbara Mitchell



Alone or Lonely...

by Audrey Hutcheson

Alone or lonely, that is the question. I have lately pondered the word "alone in its two faces, the pain of loneliness or the comfort of solitude.

Loneliness comes to everyone, for one reason or another, as we continue our life's journey.

The world seems cold and uncaring, even in spite of the physical closeness of others.

Often we cannot choose our personal situations through health or circumstances, and we are alone.

Solitude, on the other hand, rests and recharges the soul, as it enables us to reevaluate our existence in this often frantic world.

Old memories, loved faces come to mind (earlier laughter, earlier tears) to connect anew with the benedictions of today.

In retirement I experience both aspects of that word "alone" - yet, know the blessings garnered from those crowded years in the deep satisfactions of a life's task accomplished.

Some years ago, while still entrusted with that expensive baling equipment, I would thoroughly enjoy an afternoon alone in the hayfield.

I especially appreciated the several hours of solitude near the creek as it meandered on its ancient way at the back of the farm, among the maples.

As the bales reached the wagon, I counted the blessings of summer's yield toward winter's feed - of abundance of nature and of life.

Our old Border Collie faithfully followed the tractor, happily spending his solitude in pursuit of whatever tickled his fancy in the sun and shade of a summer afternoon.

If time allowed, I briefly made my way toward the creek to spy upon "our" blue heron in *his* solitude.

Invariably he stood, deep in apparent reverie upon one spindly leg, as he gravely inspected the very depths of his domain.

Then suddenly he would fly away like an unformed thought, toward the sanctuary of the trees, and, who knows, what further duties of his day.

Like the bird, I too, returned to duty and the consequent interruption of my afternoon alone.

A FRIEND

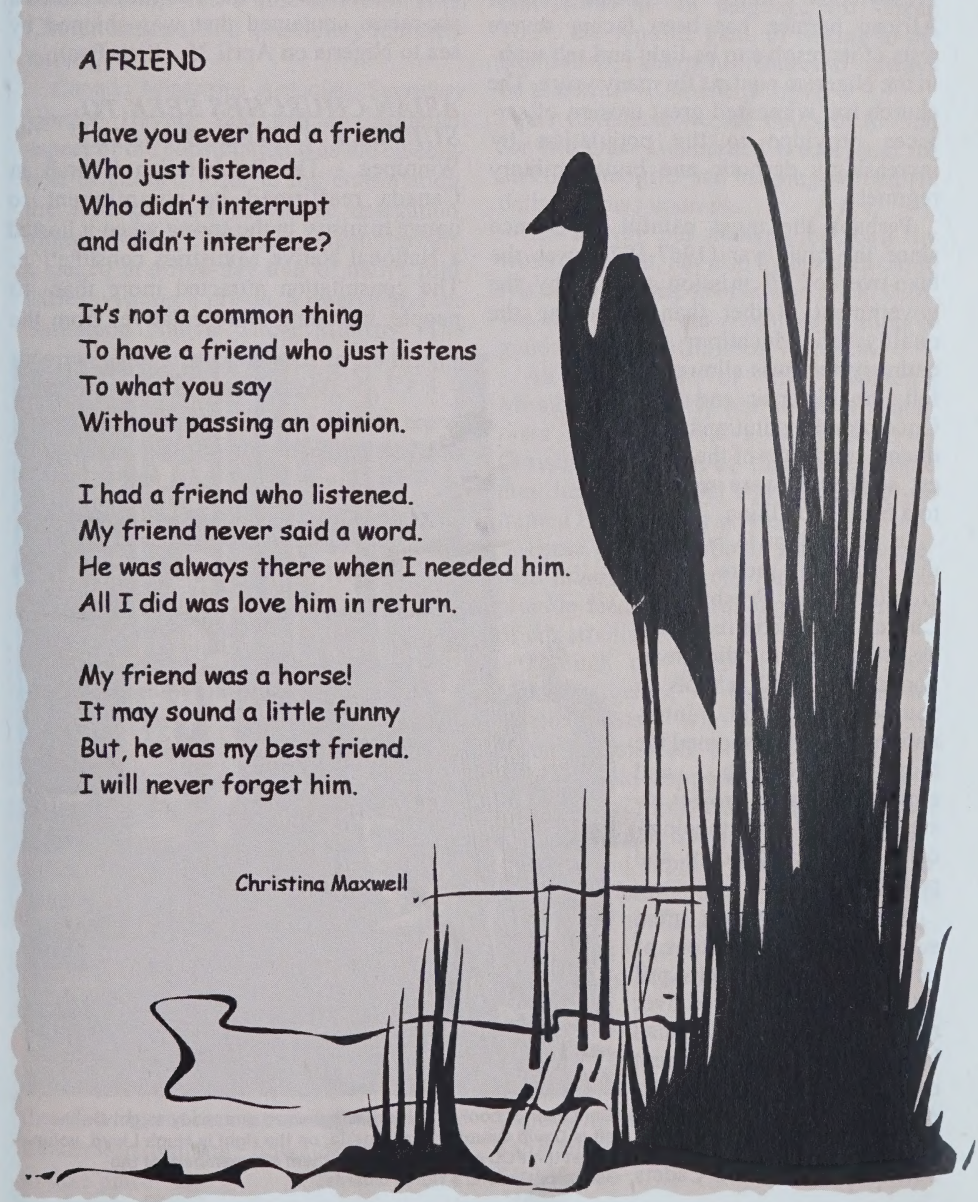
Have you ever had a friend
Who just listened.
Who didn't interrupt
and didn't interfere?

It's not a common thing
To have a friend who just listens
To what you say
Without passing an opinion.

I had a friend who listened.
My friend never said a word.
He was always there when I needed him.
All I did was love him in return.

My friend was a horse!
It may sound a little funny
But, he was my best friend.
I will never forget him.

Christina Maxwell



PRESBYTERIAN NEWS BYTES:

BOOKS SENT TO NIGERIA

The Presbyterian Church of Nigeria, The Presbyterian Church in Canada's oldest African partner, has been facing severe tests of its resolve to be light and salt within the Nigerian context for many years. The church has witnessed great erosion of services provided to the population by increasingly despotic and brutal military regimes.

Perhaps the most painful experience since the civil war (1967-1970) was the take-over of all mission schools by the government. Rather than improving the quality of education, the entire system was allowed to fall into disrepair and ruin. Once proud institutions, producing graduates of the highest standards, were reduced to a pitiful condition.

In an attempt to build up the education sector in the country, The Presbyterian Church of Nigeria requested assistance in providing textbooks to several schools in southeast Nigeria. International Ministries joined the Nigerian church and embarked on a project to supply books to the theological colleges, secondary and primary schools.

The project was a great success. Over 680 cartons of books were loaded on April 10 after being collected over a 12-month period. They had been stored in the basement of Trinity Church, Willowdale, Ontario. Youth from sever surrounding churches, bolstered by the 2402 Cadets Corps of the Governor General's Horse Guards, Denison Armoury, loaded all cartons within three hours. The cartons filled a six-metre contained that was shipped by sea to Nigeria on April 25. (Rick Fee)

ASIAN CHURCHES SEEK TO SUPPORT NATIVE MINISTRY

Winnipeg - The Presbyterian Church in Canada reaffirmed its commitment to native ministry in the spring when it hosted a National Native Ministries consultation. The consultation attracted more than 40 people, including representatives from the

-Container of books for Nigeria is packed and ready to go! On the left is David Onuoha from Nigeria; on the right is Hugh Lloyd, volunteer at the PCC offices. Between them are members of the Governor General's Horse Guards.

Korean Christian Church in Japan, the Presbyterian Church of Korea, Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, Canadian native leaders and a host of Presbyterian Church national and presbytery representatives.

Canada Ministries Associate Secretary Gordon Haynes said that an important aspect of the consultation was the celebration of culture. Prior to the consultation, the Japanese and Taiwanese delegation, along with Canadian Presbyterians, engaged in a five-day tour of native ministries, visiting a prison, a reserve and the Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry. The Asian visitors were treated to traditional drumming, clothing and food.

Haynes said the overseas church representatives came to the meeting to determine what role they could play in Canadian native ministry. Some came offering to send ministry staff to help support the Presbyterian ministry; other offered financial support. The April 28-30 consultation focused on a statement of understanding of how other denominations can get involved in native ministries.

"We develop the principles of understanding," Haynes said, "as well as a skeleton outline of the orientation and training required for new staff." He admits that the consultation could have carried on for a few more days so that a lot of the details could be hammered out.

The bottom line, he says, is that native ministries in Canada will expand. "We've been involved in this for over 100 years. The opportunity arose to involve other partners." A determination to develop and nurture native leadership, Haynes, admits that few have become ordained clergy. Leadership training, however, continues to take place.

Forward in Faith

It has been said that the two most important words in our language are "thank you". The Apostle Paul, in writing to the Colossians, exhorts his readers to "always be thankful" (Colossians 3:15).

As Christians we are thankful to God for His grace (unmerited favour) and for all His other gifts and blessings which He daily bestows upon us.

We convey our thanks , not only by word of mouth, but also by our actions. In His name we help people who are in need. We also give of our resources to support good causes and Christian outreach.

As members of the Women's Missionary Society, our financial donations make possible a wide range of Christian activities, so that more people may hear the Gospel and others may be trained for Christian service.

These givings support staff who prepare mission resources for all ages, and provide leadership training for members of our auxiliaries.

Through our grant to the Life and Mission Agency, we help to support the Regional Staff who work within the Synods/Synodicals of our Church. We also provide support for Canada and International Ministries through our grant to *Presbyterians Sharing*.

We would express our appreciation to our WMS family who give faithfully to the work of our Society. They make it possible for us to go 'Forward in Faith'.

Giollo Kelly, Treasurer

Revenue from all sources for the first half of 1999 amounted to $528,507, including $300,077 from Presbyterials. Expenditures to June 30th amounted to $558,504. Our Estimates for 1999: $1,078,150.

A View from the Arab World

by Rami G. Khouri, writing from Beirut, Lebanon

Rami Khoury is a Christian Palestinian journalist and past editor of the English language daily "The Jordan Times". He and his wife live in Amman and own a publishing house there.

NATO's Kosovo adventure, seen from Lebanon's compelling perspective

Beirut

Many parallels have been made between the current events in Kosovo and Yugoslavia and what happened in Palestine half a century ago, or what has happened in Iraq during the past decade. Also intriguing is the analogy with Lebanon, for this country's condition raises many of the same tough human and international issues that must be addressed in assessing the ongoing events in Kosovo and Yugoslavia.

Does humanity have the moral right to judge internal affairs within sovereign countries and the political right to take military action to stop the tyranny and suffering?

Lebanon is powerful yet problematic testimony to some of the basic political, military and moral issues that have often defined both the Middle East and the Balkans. These issues have to do with brutal local regimes; the trauma of neighbors who are violent and predatory; exponentially more destructive foreign or global powers; the question of what is a reasonable or acceptable level of suffering of civilians in times of war; and, the crucial but compound issue of what constitutes a war crime or a crime against humanity; who determines when such crimes have been committed, and who prosecutes those who have been deemed worthy of being charged with such crimes.

All of these issues are manifested here in Lebanon - and all of them are also largely unresolved. The situation here makes a moral force of the civilized world to check the crimes of local tyrants - or whatever other wording NATO spokesmen are using these days to rationalize what is proving to be one of the defining and troubling moral and military events of this trans-millennial transition. NATO and its brash young leaders, and its obviously confused and embarrassed spokesmen, have tried to portray the military bombing of Yugoslavia as a unique modern situation in which good people have to make a decisive response to counter the designs of bad people. How easy

and right that sounds, but it is also not true. It is fiction, not real life.

The evil deeds of Slobodan Milosevic in Yugoslavia, including his ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, are now joined in the historical record by the consequences of NATO's bombing campaign against Yugoslavia. The tyranny and suffering experienced by Yugoslavs and Kosovars in recent years under Milosevic were clearly a great challenge to all of humanity - assuming that all of humanity has the moral right to judge internal affairs within sovereign countries, and the political right to take military action to stop the tyranny and suffering.

Lebanon reminds us not only of the need for people of different religions and nationalities to live together - it also reminds us of their ability to do so, if largely left alone by regional and global powers.

If this is deemed to be the case, then the two greatest political casualties of the Kosovo situation to date have been the political credibility and efficacy of both the European Union and the United Nations. Both these institutional groupings of sovereign states have proved to be ineffective; instead of asserting their political responsibility at an early stage of the Kosovo events they instead got out of the way and let the United States ride its military stallion and march into the picture with guns blazing.

The result has been human suffering of a much greater magnitude than what had been taking place before the NATO attacks began, and - morally much more troubling in my view - creeping acceptance and tacit legitimization of the brand of barbaric 'warfare' that the Anglo-American-led air forces have now made into something of a routine operating procedure in our world: massive, and if need be, perpetual bombing of a weak and defenseless target, in which military air superiority combines with a compulsive kind of hormonally supercharged, macho-based techno-exhibitionism to attack a political target by making life unbearable for the millions of civilians who happen to live in the targeted areas. To remove a bad leader, you deny his people water, electricity, bridges and oil refineries, according to the Clinton Doctrine.

We first had a hint of this sort of warfare right here in Lebanon in the 1980s, ever since when Israel has repeatedly invaded south Lebanon and bombed other parts of the country. Blockades of Beirut and the deliberate suffocating of civilian services (such as roads and water) in south Lebanon have been coupled with an Israeli military occupation of parts of south Lebanon for nearly two decades now - yet, remarkably, but not surprisingly in my view, without Israel's security needs being met.

A similar situation has [existed] in Iraq since 1991, where brash young American and British airmen and women combine massive techno-

power with equally massive politico-nonsense to enforce an order that is to their liking. It will not work.

So, NATO will probably find itself stuck in Yugoslavia with a neo-mandate in Kosovo, just as the Anglo-American bombers have found themselves perpetually though futilely bombing Iraq, and just as the Israelis have bombed and attacked Lebanon for decades, virtually to no avail.

Lebanon today is relevant to Kosovo and NATO because of a simple lesson that seems at once so clear and compelling: the futility of war as a means to resolve political problems. Lebanon is testimony to this simple moral and political fact, and it has the scars to prove it - whether reflecting domestic strife, the predatory aggression of larger neighbors, or the interventionist impulses of world powers. To view the violence perpetrated in Yugoslavia by both the Yugoslav regime and the NATO forces, from the unique perspective of Lebanon, is to question the relevance of warfare as an instrument of political conflict-resolution, and instead to demand the succor of statesmanship and decisive and timely leadership.

It is hard to see a good or easy solution to the conflict in Yugoslavia now. But it is not hard to see that NATO's exaggerated military response to the excesses of a local tyrant is also morally and politically troubling. Humankind is challenged today to determine the precise nature and consequences of this troubling phenomenon.

The criminality of imposing mass suffering cannot be determined, judged, and then unilaterally punished only by those who happen to have faster and shinier airplanes. Lebanon, like Kosovo, reminds us not only of the need for people of different religions and nationalities to live together - it also reminds us of their ability to do so, if largely left alone by regional and global powers.

Our Lord God
Answers
All that ask
With wisdom
Profound and clear.
God touches
Our hearts
Scrubs our minds
Speaks truth
To every ear.

Marlowe C. Dickson

CANADA YOUTH 2000

Youth, Young Adults and Youth Leaders Gathering for Worship, Education, Discovery and Play!
July 4-9, 2000
Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario

Theme: Living Stones: Chosen Called Crafted

The conference features three interactive but separate tracks:

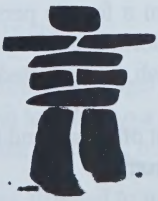
The Conference Track is designed as a growing experience for the heart, mind and soul of Presbyterian young people ages 15-19.

The Mission Track will be an opportunity for young adults ages 18-25 to share themselves with others in hands-on service project and activities.

The Youth Ministry Training Track will provide youth leaders ages 21+ with theoretical and practical tools for creating or expanding youth ministry programs.

Registration Fee ($450.00) includes accommodation, meals, facility/programming costs and travel pool contribution. Registration forms available in the fall of 1999.

Need information?
Call toll-free 1-877-831-1588 or
e-mail:cy2000@presbycan.ca



Seniors on the Go

Living out of Cans, Boxes and Bags

by Norma Tomlinson

No Need for Meat Spaghetti Sauce

Saute briefly in 1 tbsp oil or butter until softened I lg onion finely chopped
1 or 2 cloves garlic chopped
Add and cook for 3 or 4 minutes 1 1/2 cups mushrooms sliced
1 green and 1 red pepper diced
Add and simmer for 5 minutes or so
1 boullion cube dissolved in a little water
1 large can tomatoes
1 large can Libbys beans
salt and pepper to taste (not too much salt)
1 tbsp mixed herbs - oregano, sage, thyme, rosemary
Simmer a couple of minutes then stir in 1 tbsp lemon juice
and (optional) 2 tbsp yogurt
Serve with pita bread or capillini (angel hair) spaghetti or rice

A really good meatless meal BUT satisfying to hungry people.

program...program...program...program...program...program.....

Margaret Robertson
Program Secretary

New Beginnings

Gerry Bergeron prepared and used the following at St. Andrew's WMS, Kamlooops, BC in January 1999. It has been adapted to allow for more participation of individual group members. At least one leader (plain type) is required and one or more scripture readers (bold type). Groups may even wish to go around in a circle and read the various parts.

Leader: We all have new beginnings and changes in our lives: birth; going to school and leaving school; moving to new neighbourhoods; towns, countries; starting or changing jobs; marriage; parenthood; divorce; retirement; empty-nesting; acquiring grandchildren; widowhood or loss of a loved one; and for women, menopause. Finally, the ultimate new beginning is death with the promise of new life.

In the Bible we find stories of new beginnings and fresh starts. The Creation story tells of the first instance of God's initiative.

Reader: Genesis 1:1-3

The Old Testament

Leader: In the Old Testament there are many examples of people being required to make significant changes to alter their plans or beliefs. The child Samuel was called to begin a life journey as an instrument to deliver God's word to Israel. He had to change the direction of his life.

Reader: 1 Samuel 3:7

Leader: David, the shepherd boy, became a king. From a female perspective, a parallel is Esther, an orphan in her uncle's house, who became a queen. Big lifestyle changes.

A change of attitude is another kind of beginning. Jonah, who resisted God, recognized and accepted the error of his ways while in the whale.

Perhaps the best example in the Old Testament, is that of Moses and the children of Israel, whose journey out of Egypt was undertaken on God's promise:

Reader: Exodus 3:7-10

Leader: Deuteronomy Chapter 26 tells us about their obligations to receive the promised rewards for all their efforts.

Reader: Deuteronomy 26:1-2a, 8-11

Leader: These people moved, not only from one country to another, but from one reality to another. This required new attitudes, from an attitude of slaves to that of wanderers in the desert, to the attitude of free people in their own land.

Reader: Deuteronomy 30:15-16

Leader: Isaiah outlines the promises God makes to the Israelites of 'new heavens' and a 'new earth'.

Reader: Isaiah 65:17-18

Leader: In other words, God tells the people of Israel to forget the past and to go forward and build a new life in joy and anticipation.

Hymn: #674 (The Book of Praise 1997) In the bulb there is a flower

The New Testament

Leader: Jesus' baptism signaled a change in his life. He went knowingly from the relatively safe occupation of carpenter in Nazareth to the start of an unknown and perilous divine mis sion that would ultimately lead to his death on the cross.

Reader: Matthew 3:13-17

Leader: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all describe how Jesus called the first apostles. Luke describes the calling of Levi, the tax collector. Matthew recounts his introduction to life with Jesus.

Reader (one of the following): Matthew 4:18-22, Mark 1:16-20, Luke 5:1-11, John 1:35-51

Leader: All the disciples made profound changes in their lives to follow the man they accept ed as their teacher and guide. Listen to the account of the difficult challenges and the cost of following Jesus.

Reader: Matthew 8:18-22

Leader: The parable of the prodigal son, usually seen as a story of a father recovering some thing that is prized but lost, is also a story of beginning over for the son, making a fresh start. (May be found in Luke 15:11-32, but not necessary to read.)

Leader: The disciples also had to make a fresh start when Jesus was crucified. They had to make serious changes in their lives, and in a matter of days, in the face of danger from the

authorities.

Reader: Luke 24:36-49

Leader: Again, they had to adjust their lives when their eyes were opened to recognize Jesus at the breaking of the bread after the resurrection, and when they were commissioned to carry on his ministry (described also in Matthew 28:16-20 and Mark 16:15-20).

Reader: Luke 24:28-31

Leader: Peter carried out Jesus' instructions to preach repentance and to baptize those who repented to enable them to be forgiven and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. All those people made a new beginning in their spiritual lives.

Reader: Acts 2:38-41

Leader: One of the greatest stories of change and new direction is the conversion of Saul to Paul; from a persecutor of believers to a champion for Christ (this familiar story is recorded in Acts 9:1-28; not necessary to read).

Leader: Peter, at Cornelius' house, preached that the Holy Spirit was to be given equally to Gentiles, who were baptized, and Jews.

Reader: Acts 10:44-48

Leader: This required a huge change of attitude in people who had thought they were the only righteous ones. They had to develop a new way of thinking.

Rewards in Making Spiritual Changes

Leader: As we saw in the Old and New Testaments, there are rewards in making spiritual changes and renewals. Paul gives good counsel for approaching changes. Paul speaks of the reward of having hope in God through the sacrifice of Jesus.

Reader: Philippians 3:12-14

Leader: In Peter he speaks of the reward of having hope in God through the sacrifice of Jesus.

Reader: 1 Peter 1:3-6

Leader: The writer of Revelation tells of the vision of the new Jerusalem revealed to him.

Reader: Revelation 21:1-7

Hymn: #641 (Book of Praise 1997) One more step along the world I go

Our Spiritual Life Today

Leader: We do have a legacy or history of changes and new beginnings for the people in the

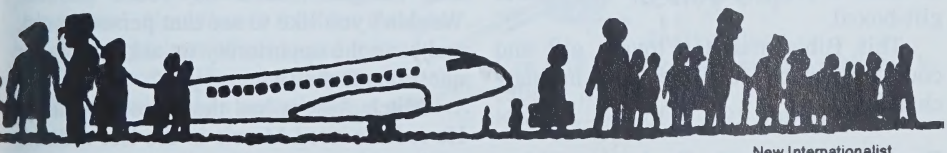
Old and New Testaments. What does it say about our spiritual life today? It tells us we must be open in our hearts and minds to the unexpected events that God may place before us; that sometimes we must be willing to make journeys into the unknown with only our faith that God will sustain us, and that if we do this we will berewarded.

The millennium is seen by some as a time of doom and gloom. For others it is the door way to new developments for humankind. How do you see it? Is the glass half empty or half full?

In the light of the promise that Christ provides for us, we are all constrained to move forward in joy, hope and eager anticipation of what lies ahead, this year and into the future.

Prayer: Dear Lord, please help us to rise to meet the challenges that require us to make changes in our lives. Let us go forward with the faith that we are walking with you, and that you are guiding our decisions. In whatever new directions we find ourselves going, we ask for your strengthening and comforting presence. We ask this in the hope that we will one day find ourselves deserving of the rewards you promise. Amen

Hymn: #726 (Book of Praise 1997) May the God of hope go with us every day



New Internationalist

"I"-Witness

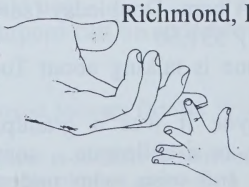
The door opened a tiny crack. A very small crack, but the light shone through, and there are hopes that the door will open wider now that the double lock on it has gone.

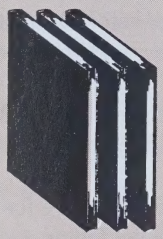
It happened on Saturday at a restaurant in Chilliwack. It was my son's birthday party. My son rejected the teaching of Sunday School teachers and my own efforts to bring him to Christ, when he was was 16. He declared himself to be an atheist. As the years went by, he softened that arbitrary statement and admitted that perhaps he was an agnostic.

But I prayed. I prayed that God would touch him. For a long time nothing happened. Then, on Saturday, he addressed the gathered company, 11 of his extended family, saying that he wished to have his mum say a prayer of thankfulness for the food. Further, he asked that everyone hold hands around the table.

I was so overcome it was difficult to find words, but I did. And so, the door opened a crack. I pray, and ask others to pray with me, that the door will open wider as time goes on.

Kay Berry,
Richmond, BC





BOOKS

Order from:
The Book Room
50 Wynford Drive
North York, ON M3C 1J7
416-441-1111 Ext. 239/240
E-mail: Bookroom@presbyterian.ca
Hours: Mon-Fri-9:00-4:45

1-800-619-7301

Please do not send payment with your order. (An invoice including postage and applicable tax will be sent with your order.) Please include name and location of congregation. **Note: VISA and Mastercard now accepted.**

Announcing for the first time ever...
New Revised Standard Bible (NRSV) in Giant Print. Nelson Publishers. $65.00
Finally, the bible translation used by more Presbyterians than any other, is available in a type size that makes it accessible to everyone. At present it is offered with a flex-leatherette style binding only, includes a presentation page and comes gift-boxed.

This Bible makes a lovely gift and could be suitable for lectern use in many churches.

Praying Daily with Paul by Eldon Degge. Meridian Publishers $13.75
This compact collection of dynamic, life-transforming scripture prayers based on the writings of the Apostle Paul fits snugly into your hands. Attractive page design and good sized print make this undated, daily devotional very welcoming for use. Consider this for a special gift for a Christian friend.

Tuesdays with Morrie: an old man, a young man, and life's greatest lesson by Mitch Albom. Doubleday (sorry, hardcover only). $31.50
Everyone is talking about Tuesdays with Morrie.

Maybe it was a grandparent, or a teacher, or a colleague... someone older, patient and wise, who understood when you were young and searching, helped you see the world as a more profound place, and gave you sound advice to help you make your way through it.

For Mitch Albom, that person was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor from nearly twenty years before. Maybe, like Mitch, you lost track of this mentor and insights faded as years passed. Wouldn't you like to see that person again, and have the opportunity to ask the bigger questions that still haunt you?

Mitch Albom had that second chance. He rediscovered Morrie in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he was dying, Morrie visited with Mitch in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final "class": lessons in how to live.

Here's a really thought-provoking resource and a fun idea to go along with it! Augsburg. $51.25
FaithTalk comes in a handy four pocket fold-over pouch with 48 cards in each of four categories. You can use these cards in many ways to provide meaningful sharing of memories and value-forming experiences of faith for small groups of people.

Some church groups have hosted a meal they call "A Table for Two". People buy tickets and invite someone special to have dinner with them. As dinner is served, a card from one of the categories

accompanies each course and guides conversation.

Memories are the usual starting place with soup or salad, with *Etchings* (reflections on experiences or events that had a strong impact on you) over soup, *Values* (sharing ways you feel God has moved in your life so that your values or belief system were impacted to provide direction and decisions for the future) with your main course, and finishing with *Actions* (descriptions about how you are moved to express your Christian faith in action) and dessert! The cards lend themselves to following a topic through the four stages of reflection although this is left to your own imagination. Participants report that they thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity for spiritual conversation and ask for monthly dinners so that they can invite another guest next time! Now *there's* food for thought!

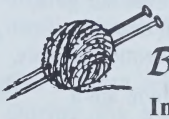
These packets of cards and instructions are "resource tool" priced with the idea that a church rather than an individual will buy a set.

FaithTalk with Children Augsburg. $34.25
Designed to stimulate conversation and imagination about God while tying faith into daily practice, these cards can be used at random while driving in the car, over Sunday dinner, or can be played as a game at home or in Sunday School. Enclosed is a spinner that will indicate which of four categories the player has to select a card from and answer the question: Memories, Growing Together, Actions and Feelings, and Wondering. 24 share cards in four categories. Red fold-over pocketed pouch holds it all.

Prayers from our Hearts by E. Lynne Geddes. 58 pages - soft cover. $10
Lynne Geddes has produced a a very useable book of prayers based on scripture. This book was the result of the Morning Break Bible Study group at The South Gate Church in Hamilton where Lynne's husband is minister. At the end of their first study on prayer, the group wrote a prayer, based on scripture. Since then, writing prayers has become a regular part of their study. The prayers are based on Jill Briscoe's book, *Hush! Hush!: It's time to pray - but how?*

This book may be used by individuals as part of personal devotions as well as by groups. It will enrich your knowledge of scripture and increase your ability to pray.

Lynne is a clinical lecturer at McMaster University, Hamilton and has written for Glad Tidings before.



Baby Cap

Instructions

Use fine baby yarn. One ball makes 4 ½ caps.
Needles - set of 4, 3.25 mm or size 10

Cast on 70 stitches. K1, P1 for 1½ inches. Continue in plain knitting 4½ inches.

Next row: *K8, K2 tog.
Knit second and alternate rows.
Knit third row; *K7, K2 tog, repeat from *.
Continue decreasing in this manner every alternate row until K1, K2 tog.
Last row, K2 tog. Around remaining stitches.
Thread end through remaining stitches.
Draw up and fasten securely.

Cap will be 6 inches total. A 1 inch band will fold up.
A small pompom can be added to top of cap.

- from Presbyterian Message October 1998

Caps may be sent to the Life & Mission Agency for distribution overseas.

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." ***2 Corinthians 9:7***

Charitable Gift Annuity. A Legacy For Your Church, An Income For Life.

GOD BLESSES EACH OF US IN A special way ... some with the gift of compassion, others with wisdom and still others with knowledge or understanding. Whatever our gifts, it is when we share them that we come to know God's grace more deeply.

So it is with finances. There are a number of ways you can share in the future work of The Presbyterian Church in Canada ... as well as of your congregation ... other than through your regular Sunday offerings.

A Charitable Gift Annuity, for example, allows you to help support the ongoing work of the Church, offers you an income tax advantage ... AND provides you with an income for life.

The program is flexible, allowing you to choose which part of the Church's work to support: help for poor and homeless people, Christian Education, mission work in developing nations, training ministers, the work of the Women's Missionary Society or some combination of these. Or it may also be support for a program in your own congregation that holds a special meaning for you. Your financial commitment today will be a living legacy for generations to come.

To find out more about Charitable Gift Annuities or other financial tools that will help you make a difference, fill in and mail the coupon below.

Hendy Andrews, ***Presbyterian Church Planned Giving Office***
342 Pond Mills Road, London Ontario N5Z 3X5
Toll-free telephone 1-800-368-1371 • Fax (519) 649-5142

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____

Glad Tidings 3/4-1998

MISSION IN ACTION

McMullen
Punjab, India

1999 - Excerpts from Clarence McMullen's 1998-1999 Director's Report for the Christian Institute for Religious Studies

This Institute continues to make efforts in [addressing prejudice and discrimination facing religious minorities] by bringing persons of diverse religious and ideological persuasions together. There are times when I feel that our efforts hardly make any difference. On the other hand, at least locally, some difference has been made. A recent incident demonstrates this.

A couple of weeks ago at a program of RSS, the main speaker, who had come from Delhi, made some derogatory remarks against Christians. This was shown on local TV and I happened to watch it. I casually mentioned my objections to a few friends and it was conveyed to the local organizers of the program. They came a few days later, explained the situation and said that they hold our institutions in this area in great respect. There were two very important Sikh functions in Batala in which the Sikhs invited me to speak along with the Jatthedar of the Akal Takhat, who is like the pope of the Sikhs. The efforts towards mutual understanding and respect among followers of different religions, thus, seem to bear some fruit at least. One of the pre-requisites for communal harmony and understanding is openness - of ideas as well as that of the heart.

The Institute had a number of other seminars, consultations and workshops. Over 50 persons from all over north India, attended a three-day seminar of "Turning to God." Many practical questions were raised during discussions: What does it mean to turn to God? In a multi-faith society, there are so many conceptions of God. Which God do we turn to? What are the social and personal implications of turning to God?

Another seminar dealt with the problem of vote selling by village Christians. During the elections, Christians in villages sell their votes due to poverty. In this seminar over 120 village Christian leaders participated to discuss the problem and to make people aware of the value of their votes....

The director was invited to different places as resource person, including the Canadian High Commission. There he gave lectures on understanding Punjabi culture. ...He gave lectures at a Roman Catholic seminary and spoke at many other programs organized by Baring College and Amritsar Diocese.

The Institute has an extensive program of helping dalit [see News item "South Indians Grapple With Casteism" for more on dalit] students with their studies. This year almost 200 students were given financial assistance, without which they would not have been able to attend the college or the school. The Institute is grateful to the Presbyterian Church in Canada for a special grant, which was used for this purpose and for

building extra rooms and a dining hall at the Girls' hostel.

The Institute was able to spend over Rs.70,000 to give financial assistance to needy students. The bulk of these students are dalit Christians with a rural background. Their parents are landless laborers. Because they are Christians, these students are denied the substantial financial assistance, which the government gives to Hindu or Sikh students from the same background.

In a village 18 kilometers from here, the Institute has a program of health and education. This program is specially geared to the needs of village women. It provides vocational training and literacy, and imparts health education to them. In recent years, the emphasis is on sending girls to school.

Once when a mother was being persuaded to send her daughter to school, her argument against it was, "I never went to school. Why should I send her there?"

The argument against polio vaccination was, "I have six children. They never had polio. Why should the seventh one have a polio injection?" Over the years, however, there have been gradual but marked changes in their attitude.

Allison
Cameroon, Africa

June 1999 - We had a gift from God fall into our laps the last week of March, just six weeks after moving out to the Kotoko village of Makari in northern Cameroon. A pastor came to see me with a young Kotoko man, 32 years of age, from a village that borders Nigeria, located about 20 kilometres west of Makari. This man has received no formal education and speaks neither French nor English, although he is conversant in Hausa, Kanuri and Chadian Arabic as well as the Kotoko variety of the area.

Like almost all young Muslims in the region, he attended Coranic school growing up, and learned how to correctly pronounce the Muslim prayers. He also learned the Coranic stories including the story of how Jesus would return to judge the world. This is a Coranic teaching although Islam also teaches that Jesus will get married, have two boys and then die. What stayed with him was that it was Jesus and not Mohammed who would do the judging at the end of the world.

This young man had been working for about fifteen years in neighbouring Nigeria, returning to his village in Cameroon from time to time to see his family. One night about five months before I met him, during an apparent lunar eclipse, he was on the ground resting while those around him were yelling and hollering at the disappearing moon.

Islam in the region seems to be swallowed with a large dose of animism and occult activity. He tried to get up to join the others but felt a heavy weight on him. When he looked up he saw six 'men' dressed in white, three on each side of him. They told him not to join in on the activities of the others, and he heeded their words.

In January, through the urging of a Christian friend in Nigeria, he saw a video in the Hausa language depicting the life of Jesus. It convinced him, and on January 10 he made a decision to follow Isa (the Islamic name for Jesus) - the One who would come to judge the world. He told his Muslim friends in Nigeria about his conversion, and they excluded him from their community, although his

brother and two friends have secretly expressed interest in what he was sharing.

He returned to his home in Cameroon and informed his family of the decision he had made. His inlaws refused to let him stay with his wife and his two young children and he was sent out of the village. It was then that he made his way to Makari to seek out Christian help. I showed him the tentative alphabet that we've set up for his Kotoko language variety, and he seemed quite excited about being able to read a few words of his own language. It certainly motivates us for the work ahead.

At the pastor's request, we gave the young man a ride down to the city of Maroua where he could get some discipling and literacy training in a safe Christian environment. When a Muslim friend in Makari found out that the young man was going to Maroua with us, he warned me that this man was a thief. He told me that word was out that he had stolen something around the beginning of the year. I think it might be more accurate to say that at about that time, it was the Master of the Universe that stole the young man from the power of darkness and translated him into the kingdom of the Son of his love. MbiNka[ag]! (Very good! Literally 'good very').

In February, I received an email from a good friend of ours. His last line reads as follows: "I've been praying that if God doesn't change the heart of the Kotoko now for a true religion - when will he do it"? God hears and is answering our prayers. Please continue to pray for the Kotoko people.

In the One who knew no sin yet was made to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Cor. 5:21).

Sean, Lezlie, Josiah & Nathanael

Prayer Requests

Cameroon

1. Pray for the continuing work of the Allisons as they work among the Kotoko people in the north.
2. Pray for the young man whom the Allisons met that he may continue to grow in his new found faith.

Cyprus

1. Pray for the Barsoum family, as they return to their challenging work after family reunion, holidays, and some business in Canada and the US.
2. Pray for the audience of SAT-7 - young person, older persons, believers and non-believers, literate and illiterate, who come from over 50 countries, that each will be led closer to Christ.
3. Pray for new Sat-7 staff that they may have a quick integration.

Punjab

1. Pray for the ministry of Clarence and Cathy Mcmullen as they work to overcome prejudice and discrimination against dalits.
2. Pray for changes in attitudes towards health care, especially for the benefit of children.

Malawi

1. Pray that the harvest in Mzuzu may be adequate.

2. Pray for the time and the way for all human beings to life with ife's basic needs: food, shelter and security.

Heather Jones
Malawi

May 1999 - I write this from my own home! The major part of the renovation work is now complete, and I have indoor plumbing. I am living here and loving it.

The other good news is that the rains have finally stopped in the north. Right here in Mzuzu, we are still getting the occasional shower, but because of our elevation and relation to the two major plateaus, that is normal. It is dry enough, even here, for the maize to be harvested. Some farmers have lost parts of their crops, but most seem to be finding the harvest at least adequate. For the people in the low lying areas, it is now time to work on rebuilding the parts of their homes that have been washed away. Various small road works are being undertaken; slowly the pot holes and ruts are being fixed.

The news is not so good from the lakeshore area. The major bridge that was lost in a storm on Easter weekend will take at least one year to be rebuilt. We have been told here that the 'detour' this causes for transport trucks is responsible for the most recent hikes (20%) in sugar prices.

I had a wonderful month visiting with my sister. We saw a great deal of Malawi and Zimbabwe. I had a very interesting conversation with different Malawians, at different times, and in different places. Many people, learning that I was living in Malawi, wanted to know what life was like here. Though the two countries are neighbours, and both are part of the SADC Region (South African Development Community), most Zimbabweans know very little about Malawi. Regional news does not get covered in their local media.

Most of these people were surprised to hear that Malawi is even poorer than Zimbabwe. From my experience, there is little comparison. We visited a couple of villages near the National Park. Clearly, village life in Zimbabwe is much more difficult than city life, but the villagers I saw had a much higher standard of living than the villagers I have seen in Malawi.

In Zimbabwe there is reportedly a diesel generated maize mill in every village, and well water available to every community. In Malawi the churches and other organizations are working on providing clean water to every village; there is still a long way to go to meet this goal.

It is impossible to even compare Malawi's major city Blantyre with Zimbabwe's Harare. Harare has multi-storey office and apartment buildings everywhere. I know of about three buildings, even in Blantyre, that are more than two storeys high. Harare has western style major shopping centres in many different areas of the city. Blantyre has one major shopping area, with very few shops looking like anything I've ever seen in North America.

The tourist experience is also very different. In Mzuzu, tourists can stay in the one very expensive Mzuzu Hotel, the one motel-like facility, or they choose from the ten guest houses available. Guest houses generally cater to local people or to backpackers. The better ones are clean, the excellent ones offer hot water in the showers.

In Zimbabwe there is accommodation of every level available in every city and town. There are tourist attractions and preplanned tours that can keep a tourist busy for weeks on end. There are any number of resorts equipped to keep tourists comfortable and occupied for weeks on end.

Travel between cities, towns, and tourist attractions in Zimbabwe is very easy. You can fly at your convenience, take the train, travel on at least three different kinds of buses, or rent a car. In Malawi, there is air service between the three major cities once each day. There are a few other routes that are served on a weekly basis. You can rent a car in the major cities, but they carry only third party insurance.

There is no longer a comfortable bus running in the northern region. A 'coach' bus runs between Lilongwe and Blantyre, but if you want to go anywhere else, you must take an 'express' which stops on average three times each hour; or a local bus, which looks like an abandoned school bus, and stops on average once every five minutes.

None of this is written to suggest that one should not visit Malawi. It is a beautiful country, with a wonderfully warm and welcoming population. However, as one of the five poorest countries in the world, it is not your average tourist experience.

The more I learn and experience here, the more I know I am privileged to be Canadian. Even though Zimbabwe is much wealthier than Malawi, life is still very difficult there for too many people. At some point, there has to come a time and a way for all human beings, to live with life's basic needs: food, shelter and security.

The Barsoum Family
Nicosia, Cyprus.

March 1999 - Greetings again from Cyprus! This letter is different as some have asked us to produce a promotional letter about our family and the ministry of SAT-7. Some information may be

redundant , but we trust you find it helpful to share with others.

Parables and Parabolas: Speaking to Middle Eastern Hearts Today

Ever wonder why there is no "Gospel According to Jesus?" Why did Jesus leave the task of recording his legacy to the disciples?

Part of the answer can be found in the Middle Eastern culture of His day-where the most effective means of communication was colorful word stories-parables! These lessons packed a spiritual wallop and they were easily remembered by the masses, many of whom could not read.

Much has changed in the Middle East in 2000 years, but we can still learn from Jesus' effective methods in communicating spiritual truths. The boom media in the 1990's in the Middle East has been satellite television. There are now more satellite TV channels in Arabic than in any other language except for English! And satellite receiving dishes - called "parabolas" in some countries due to their shape - are sprouting quickly on buildings and homes throughout the region. In Morocco, for example, this "national flower" (as the locals are calling it) far outnumber telephones!

The SAT-7 Project

While political, religious, and corpo-

rate groups have been quick to exploit this new technology, direct-to-home satellite broadcasting has also afforded the Middle Eastern church with its first uncensored voice in the media. This initiative began in 1996 when many churches and agencies in the area joined together to form SAT-7-"The Satellite Television Service for the Christians of the Middle East."

What began as a two-hour per week service in May 1996 has gained momentum and is now moving to a four-day, 12-hour per week service in April of this year. The channel has not only encouraged and sustained the scattered Christian communities in the region, but it has also released the talent and creativity of Middle Eastern Christians in the area of media ministry. And responses to SAT-7 Arabic programming have been overwhelming throughout the Arab World!

From the Middle East to Canada...and Back Again!

Presbyterians in Canada have a special link to the SAT-7 ministry as the Barsoum family from Toronto has been working with the project since 1996. Makram and Mona were born in Egypt before emigrating to Canada over 20 years ago. Leaving behind a career in aerospace engineering, Makram has served both as Director of Audience Relations and Church Relations at SAT-7's headquarters in Nicosia, Cyprus. Mona is an active volunteer handling phone calls from the many interested viewers, in addition to taking care of things on the home front.

Sherien is currently studying Journalism at Ryerson University in Toronto, while Philip is in Grade 11 at the Black Forest Academy in Germany. Young Christopher is living with his parents and going to school in Nicosia. Makram was instrumental in establishing a SAT-7 office in Cairo, Egypt in 1997. He is currently concentrating on several Audience Relations projects, including opening telephone counseling centers in various countries for interested viewers, and connecting these various sites into a central database.

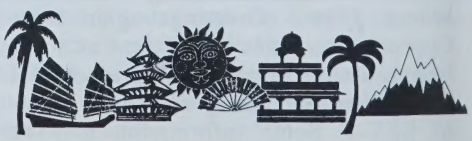
Lord willing, SAT-7 will be offering a daily service to the Middle East by next year. Your prayers and support for this Canadian family and the entire SAT-7 project will avail much as the church in the Middle East is strengthened and the Gospel message proclaimed in a unique and unprecedented manner!

Makram, Mona, Sherien, Philip & Christopher

OVERSEAS STAFF BIRTHDAYS

October
5 - Kennis Kim, Guatemala
9 - Mark Gordon, Mozambique
20 - Lezlie Allison, Cameroon
23 - Glenn Inglis, Malawi
27 - Josiah Allison, Cameroon

November
6 - Pamela Young, Malawi
7 - Joe Reed, Central America
11 - Fernando Cascante, Costa Rica
16 - Richard Schwarz, Nepal
21 - Jack Geddes, Taiwan



NEWS

SOUTH INDIANS GRAPPLE WITH CASTEISM

New Delhi, 30 June (ENI) - Anto Akkara - The Roman Catholic Church in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu is taking action to end discrimination within the church against Dalits - the people once known as Untouchables or "low-caste" people*. (*See McMullen - *Mission in Action p 31*)

Dalits comprise more than 70 per cent of the state's four million Roman Catholics. Bishop Malayappan Chinnappa, of Vellore in Tamil Nadu, told ENI: "The Catholic Church here is a faithful friend of Hinduism," referring to the caste system linked to the Hindu religion. "The church has not yet been able to shake off discriminatory caste prejudices and practices."

Bishop Chinnappa said that "conflicts between Dalits and upper castes do take place in the church. We cannot enter the third millennium as an unequal church where the majority is ill-treated".

Bishop Chinnappa is chairman of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI) and of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes of the Tamil Nadu Bishops' Council (TNBC).

"Dalits" - meaning trampled upon - refers to low-caste people, who are officially known as "Scheduled Castes". According to Hindu tradition, Dalits should remain subservient and carry out menial jobs for the upper castes - Brahmins (priestly class), Kshatriyas (warrior class) and Vaisyas (business class).

Echoing Hindu caste practices, separate cemeteries for Dalits and upper castes are commonplace within parishes in Tamil Nadu. In church business and at major celebrations, Dalits are spectators only. Nor are Dalit funeral and marriage processions permitted on the main streets of towns and villages.

This discrimination regularly causes outrage in India.

Bishop Chinnappa said that "caste is so deep-rooted in Indian blood that once they [nuns and priests] come out from formation houses, it is the Indian blood that shows itself, and not what they have been taught." While the caste prejudices were "slowly disappearing", Bishop Chinnappa said, "caste-minded upper clergy" remained the "greatest hindrance" to equality in the church.

Philomin Raj, a priest and secretary of TNBC Commission for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes pointed out, "Most of the priests are non-Dalits. For many of them, discrimination against Dalits is not a problem but a common practice," Raj told ENI, adding that upper-caste clergy encouraged vocations to the priesthood from within their own castes. "That is why Dalit ratio in vocation remains as low as five per cent, though they account for more than two thirds of the faithful."

In September 1997 in Tamil Nadu, 13 Dalits were killed in violence with upper-caste Indians after a state-owned bus named after a Dalit leader traveled through upper-caste areas.

Bishop Chinnappa - himself a Dalit - said that the church had come "a long way" in the 35 years since he was ordained a priest. No new caste-based cemeteries had been opened since the 1980s. Separate seating arrangements for Dalits and upper castes in Catholic church buildings had been halted, and Dalits no longer had to wait until last to receive communion.

'CAN ANY WAR BE JUST?'

Taipei, 6 July (ENI) - Edmund Doogue - Following NATO's military campaign against Yugoslavia, an official in a leading international

Protestant organisation has called on mainstream churches to consider abandoning the "just war" theory which is often invoked by Christians to justify the use of military force.

Dr Milan Opocensky, a Czech theologian and general secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC), was giving his report on 2 July on the opening day of the annual meeting of WARC's executive committee, in Taiwan.

Dr Opocensky told the 35 members of the executive committee that many "Reformed [Christians] have held the opinion that in certain situations it becomes necessary for a Christian to take up the sword".

According to Dr Opocensky, "many features of the classical just war [theory] seem to be applicable" such as the claim that "a dictator should be stopped and basic human rights have to be restored".

But, he added, "after the prolonged bombing, the question was raised whether the main objective of the war had been achieved. Great suffering has been inflicted upon the people on both sides".

Dr Opocensky, while pointing out that he did not wish to belittle the "brutalities and the ethnic cleansing", said that "the principal question remains: How can we respond to evil in an adequate and effective way? Does the military solution represent the only possible approach?"

While stating that he does not personally advocate "total pacifism", Opocensky said that the mainstream churches should give pacifism further consideration.

"In the presence of nuclear weapons, and given the changed character of war in our times, we should listen more carefully to the witness of historic peace churches [such as Mennonites and Quakers] which have in principle opposed the use of violent force and war. The mainline churches need to stretch their imagination to develop and cultivate the concept of non-violence and of a more positive approach to pacifism."

According to the New Dictionary of Christian Ethics, published in London, the just war theory is intended to define the conditions under which the use of violence is morally permissible for a Christian. Among the conditions which have been accepted in the past as part of the just war theory are the ideas that "force should be a last resort, should be proportional to the evil remedied, should expect to succeed in its ends and should contribute to a new state of peace". The just war tradition has also included a "consensus on noncombatant immunity and a concern for proportional means in war".

CATHEDRAL TO WELCOME DALAI LAMA

Taipei, 7 July (ENI) - Edmund Doogue - Geneva's St Pierre Cathedral is to welcome the Dalai Lama, spiritual leader of Tibet's Buddhists, to preach at a Sunday service on 8 August.

Between 5,000 and 15,000 worshippers are expected to attend the service at the 12th-century building in Geneva's Old Town, which in the 16th-century became the church of John Calvin, the most influential thinker in Reformed Christianity.

The cathedral's dean, Dr William McComish, told ENI that "His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, will be welcomed to Geneva by a non-political committee chaired by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan. The committee includes representatives of the major religions".

The present Dalai Lama - the 14th incarnation, according to Tibetans - while respected world-wide for his spiritual leadership, is in political terms a controversial figure because he has become a symbol of the wishes of many Tibetans to be free of Chinese rule. The history of Tibet has been closely intertwined with that of China since at least the 7th

century, and in 1950 Chinese communist forces reasserted claims to the territory. In 1959, the Dalai Lama who is the traditional religious and temporal head of Tibet, fled Tibet for India, where he established an alternative government. Since that time, he has travelled extensively to speak about Buddhism and to campaign for Tibet's independence.

Asked if the Beijing government had tried to prevent the Dalai Lama from visiting, Dr McComish told ENI: "We - the cathedral clergy - understand that the People's Republic of China has certain reservations about an official welcome to the Dalai Lama on Swiss territory, but they have not interfered with the invitation to the cathedral in any way."

"We have invited him as a spiritual figure, not as a political leader."

Asked by ENI how a leader of a faith which does not believe in a personal God or a saviour could be invited to preach at a Christian cathedral, Dr McComish replied that the cathedral had a long tradition of co-operation with Geneva's Buddhists, who had already participated in services at St Pierre. "We recognize the spirituality of the Dalai Lama, and we consider it part of Reformed and Presbyterian liberty to enter into the spirit of his convictions in the hope that our meeting him and worshipping with him will increase our understanding of our own Christianity."

The cathedral was becoming, he said, "a home for a new religious centre to experience understanding between the world's major faiths. By centre I mean a middle-ground between all extremes - a place where ordinary people of all faiths can feel at home."

"The point," Dr McComish told ENI, "is that in each of our [religious] traditions we are under pressure from extremist or conservative or fundamentalist groups, the kind of right-wing Jewish stuff from Israel or extremist views from Northern Ireland. Someone asked [referring to the Dalai Lama's visit] why we were inviting a pagan".

"We cannot afford to leave the religious high ground to the extremists. This has nothing to do with syncretism," said Dr McComish, referring to those who criticise inter-faith dialogue as a mixing of religions which weakens Christianity. "There is no loss of identity. We invite people as they are, we do not invite them under 'certain conditions'."

Dr McComish, originally from North Ireland, told ENI that his views on the need for tolerance had grown largely from his period in Northern Ireland. "I saw that 'religion' was increasingly being used to divide humanity. It is essential that the visible members of the great religions demonstrate that they are capable of coming together, and praying together. This is the only dynamic that will help the great bulk of humanity to perceive the richness of the other person, rather than seeing the other person as a threat."

DEBT CANCELLATION NOT ENOUGH

Cologne, 21 June (ENI) - Stephen Brown - Organizers of the Jubilee 2000 movement - which is calling for the cancellation of debts owed by the world's poorest countries - have criticized as "too little" the proposals by the leaders of the world's main industrialized countries to ease the debt crisis.

But Jubilee 2000 organizers insisted that the proposals would never have been made if they had not campaigned for debt cancellation.

On 19 June, to hammer home their calls for "a debt-free start to the new millennium" for the world's poorest countries, tens of thousands of campaigners from around the world formed a 10-kilo-

metre long human chain around the centre of the German city of Cologne where the leaders were meeting.

They were joined by Cardinal Joachim Meisner, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cologne, and by several pop stars - Bob Geldof, U2's lead singer Bono, Radiohead's Thom Yorke, and the African musician Youssou N'Dour.

A petition bearing more than 17 million signatures supporting the campaign was also presented to German Chancellor Gerhard Schroder, who was hosting the "G8" heads of government meeting, which brought to Cologne leaders of the world's seven major industrial powers, and Russian president Boris Yeltsin.

The actions marked the climax of the "Jubilee 2000" movement, which has taken the lead in calling for debt cancellation. The campaign was launched in Britain in 1996 and has now taken root in more than 50 countries. It has been endorsed by many church leaders.

On 18 June, heads of government from the world's seven leading industrial nations pledged to write off US$70 billion of debt owed by 36 of the most indebted developing countries.

But Ann Pettifor, co-founder and director of Jubilee 2000 in the United Kingdom, told ENI: "It's too little, I'm afraid. It's really depressing. These countries owe $370 billion. In Birmingham [in 1998] the G8 promised to cancel $25 billion. That moved up to $50 billion. Yesterday it moved up again to $70 billion. That is the achievement of this campaign, but it's still far from dealing with the fundamental problems of debt."

She said that the campaign would continue, and singled out the US and Japan as examples of industrialised countries where greater awareness about the debt crisis was needed.

A Reminder: It's Time to Renew Your Subscription

IF YOU SUBSCRIBE THROUGH A GROUP you can help your local Glad Tidings Secretary by:

1. Checking your address on her list and on your label. Make sure all the information is correct and up-to-date, including postal code:

0172650 01 000060 1298
Ms. L. J. Stevenson,
50 Wynford Drive,
North York, ON M3C 1J7

2. Arranging to *transfer* your subscription if you are moving into an area where there is another group. It is more costly to *cancel* from one group and add as "new" on another. Please give Secretary of new group a copy of the label on your magazine or the number from the label.

IF YOU ARE AN INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIBER:

1. If you belong to a church that has a Glad Tidings group, please subscribe through the group.
2. Check your address on your label to make sure all the information is correct and up-to-date. (See label above).

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

November 1, 1999
is the deadline for renewals and new subscriptions.
Cost of a subscription for 2000 is $10.00 (including GST) for 6 issues.

IN THE SOCIETY

SYNODICAL

On a beautiful warm June weekend, some forty-five women of the Synodical of **South Western Ontario** gathered at **Camp Kintail** for a special retreat.

The program consisted of Bible Study under the direction of Erin Crisfield; crafts with Karen De Long; and games planned by Marian Mundell, her daughter and granddaughters. Fleur Eenkhorn took us on a Mission Journey. Music was under the direction of Alice Brown and Chris Evans with a special treat being solos by Kathy Pearson and a trio of Barb Shaw, Virginia Shaw and Shirley Johnston.

Members of various Presbyterials led in devotions at morning watch and in the evening before we retired.

We enjoyed a camp fire under the stars with Kintail staff members in charge of the singing.

There was a time for 'remembering' and an evening of hilarious skits. As Ladies' Camp would not be having directors from the Synodical membership, Erin Crisfield conducted a ceremony to honour past directors who were there, namely Barbara Tubb, Dorothy Neal, Chris Evans and Jeannette Maule.

On Sunday morning we gathered in the quaint rustic chapel for church service under the direction of Dorothy Neal. Rev. Gwen Brown, Camp Director, was in charge of the Communion Service.

The theme for the weekend was *Hallelujah Praise the Lord.*

Barbara Tubb, Dorothy Neal and Chris Evans were in charge of program.

Forward in Faith-Outward in Vision was the theme for the 85th Annual Meeting of **BC Synodical** held March 26-27 at **St. Andrew's, Newton** in Surrey.

Rev. Betty McLagan, Synodical President, welcomed everyone and introduced guests, including Beth McIntosh, soon returning to Japan, and former Moderator, Tam Corbett.

Rev. Karen MacAndless-Davis, minister at St. Andrew's, led the opening worship reading from John 4:7 (the woman at the well). Norma Cox, choir director at First Church, New Westminster, sang a solo, accompanied on the piano by Ernestine Allan.

Betty McLagan constituted the meeting.

Part 1 of a workshop on restructuring was held Friday afternoon under the guidance of WMS Program Secretary, Margaret Robertson. Her question from Mark 16:1-8 "Who will roll the stone away?" brought forth many ideas on how to bring new life into our groups.

Opening worship on Saturday was led by Hazel Smith, reading from John 20:23 (the woman at the tomb).

Ryan Ormerod sang a solo, accompanied on the piano by Kevin Carrigan, both of St. Andrew's.

Rev. Margaret Robertson continued with the workshop, drawing again from the scripture readings about the courage of women in the Bible, and the assurance that the Scripture and Gospel will give us the knowledge and energy to know what to do, and to not be afraid of change. She also emphasized the need for prayer always.

Margaret gave a brief account of her visit to Malawi.

Rev. Dr. Geoff Johnston was guest speaker on Saturday afternoon. Dr. Johnston had just returned from Cuba where he had taken his graduating class. He also visited Nigeria recently to join the 50th Anniversary celebration at Trinity College in Umuahia. He had taught there 20 years ago.

On May 15, thirty-seven women gathered from different parts of **Saskatchewan** to *Celebrate Women.* This was the annual Women's Spring Gathering.

Rev. Bev. McLean from Swift Current was the guest speaker. She talked about women in history who have made a great contribution. She closed her message by giving the example of Mother Teresa who sought to feed the poor and helpless and treat them like human beings. Rev. McLean challenged us to make a difference as Christian women.

Opening and closing devotions and communion were led by Rev. Catherine Dorcas who challenged us to be all that God intended for us. A Bible Study on Women in the Bible was led by Rev. Annabelle Wallace.

Lots of singing, workshops and time to peruse the book table rounded out the day. The day provided women an opportunity in their busy lives to take time out for worship, fellowship and inspiration.

PRESBYTERIAL

West Toronto Presbyterial's Spring Rally was hosted by **Weston** Church on May 8. President Beverley McWhinnie welcomed everyone and led in prayer before a pot luck supper was enjoyed.

Following devotions and reports, Pastor Tettch Alcrinor from the Ghanian Presbyterian Church, spoke. A group of Ghanian women, beautifully dressed, sang in their native tongue. Pastor Tettch spoke about the customs and traditions of the Ghanian Church.

A special presentation was made by Dianne Osborne. The WMS of Weston renamed their group the "Elizabeth Heath Society" in honour of the dedicated service Elizabeth has given the group and the church. Elizabeth's family was present.

Peterborough Presbyterial held their rally on May 19 at **St. Andrew's, Warkworth.** The theme was *Discipleship* (John 8:31). Registration was followed by a singalong led by Jackie Kelly and Helen King.

President Joan Smith welcomed members. Worship was conducted by Kass Whitefield and Jean Abrams of Cobourg. Craig MacInnis brought greetings from the Warkworth congregation.

A trio of Helen King, Jacqueline Beamish and Doris Meiklejohn was accompanied by Marie Glover on piano.

The executive presented a skit "As the World Turns to Discipleship" based on the parable of the talents from Matthew 25:14.

Following lunch, guest speaker Barbara Loucks, Port Hope United Church Women, showed slides and commented on her trip to Nicaragua. Mrs. Loucks went with theological students from Queen's University, Kingston.

The May Rally of **Brockville** Presbyterial was held in **St. Paul's, Kemptville**. The theme was *Flames.* Henny Donkersteeg chaired the meeting.

Judy Messenger welcomed everyone to her home church. Lottie Sutherland and Mary Moorhead brought greeting from Synodical and from Council '99. Worship was conducted by the Morrisburg group after which reports on mission work were given.

Rev. Alison Sharpe led in Bible Study, followed by group discussions.

Members who had attended Synodical in April and Council in May, reported.

Guest speakers for the day were Rev. Charlotte Brown and Rev. Margaret Robertson who led a discussion on how to get more members involved in mission and to acquire more funds to further the work.

Brockville delegate Audrey Sine thanked

the speakers.

Barrie Presbyterial Annual Meeting was hosted by **Knox Church, Horning's Mills** on May 18. The meeting was conducted by President Jill Pardy. Women from Maple Valley led in devotions, directing our thoughts to "friendship".

Annual reports were received and business was conducted. Books from the display were reviewed by Elaine Steele. Carol Hamp sang two solos. Alma Faris conducted a memorial service in tribute to fourteen members who have passed away this year.

Betty McClure conducted the installation of officers, and outgoing officers were recognized by the president.

After supper June Campbell led a singalong to open the evening session. Leona Harrison introduced guests, David and Miriam Barrie, agricultural missionaries to Malawi. Through slides, commentary and artifacts, they showed how the Malawian people have progressed.

Aileen Wallace extended thanks to everyone and the benediction was sung.

Sharing God's Mission was the theme of the **Sarnia** Presbyterial Spring Rally held May 11 at **St. Andrew's, Corunna**. President Anna McCoskery welcomed all to the tables for a potluck supper with the grace being offered by the host church minister, Rev. Philip Wilson.

Literature secretary Margaret Smith displayed books which were available for purchase. During the evening service, the women of the Corunna choir sang.

Guest speaker was missionary Rev. Joe Reed who spoke of his work in Central America since 1986 and how this privilege has transformed him.

The Spring Rally of **Glengarry** Presbyterial was held in **Knox, Moose Creek** on May 19 with an attendance of about forty. Vice-president Liz Geddes conducted the meeting. Lorna MacGregor extended a warm welcome on behalf of Knox Church and their WMS.

The worship service, reflecting the theme *Fanning the Flames*, was conducted by Joyce Bender and Eunice Henderson, Avonmore WMS.

A celebration service for closure of St. John's WMS, Cornwall was conducted by Liz Geddes on behalf of the Presbyterial. A certificate of recognition of the group's 115 years of witness was presented to Annie MacRae by Ann Blane.

Annie outlined highlights of the work throughout the years. Vera MacEwen presented Annie with a floral arrangement in thanks and recognition of her dedication.

The Memorial Service was conducted by Shelagh MacDougall, Eleanore MacLean and Norma MacIntrye from Finch WMS.

Following a salad luncheon, the afternoon session began with the video "Fanning the Flames". Guest speakers Charlotte Brown, Executive Secretary WMS and Margaret Robertson, Program Secretary were introduced by Sheila Patterson. The meeting then broke into small groups to discuss some of the challenges facing our Society as we enter the 21st century.

Bruce-Grey Presbyterial "Gladys Sim Children's Rally", held at **Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Headquarters** on May 29, was attended by 104 children and 40 adults, representing 10 churches of the area.

Rev. Case Bodegum, Durham, welcomed everyone. Rev. Kathy Desmond, Priceville, led the learning of the first verse of "Jesus Loves Me" in the Cree language.

The Rally theme was aptly introduced and enacted as each child received a passport to

God's Green Earth. They traveled through the day's listed activities, such as exploration of the Food Chain, tours of the Duck and Trout Ponds, Bird Pens and Predators fenced enclosures, and a hike through the Forest Community and Trails. These fun times were interspersed with singing, information about Gladys Sim, mobile-making from Bible verses and - of course - food!

The Rally was closed by Dave Echlin's sum-up of our stewardship of God's Green Earth. Arita Droog, and her band of helpers, along with the Conservation Park staff, made this a memorable time.

The Bruce-Grey Presbyterial sponsors this annual event. This year's program was developed and led by members of St. Andrew's, Priceville. The freewill offering was donated to "Kids Phone Help Line".

The Friendship Luncheon of **Westminster** Presbyterial was held on June 5 at **Grace Church, Surrey**. The women of the Korean congregation at Grace were the hostesses.

Barbara Marshall, Presbyterial President, welcomed guests. Following lunch, Betty Siverns, delegate to Council, gave an interesting and informative report on the meeting. Esther Hong, wife of the Rev. S. Hong, minister of the Korean congregation, spoke on the "All Tribes" mission in downtown Vancouver, begun by the Korean women in 1994. Today it is a growing mission, ministering to the less fortunate in the city. The centre provides rest and food each day in an environment that speaks of God's love.

Marion Wilson, an aboriginal and co-worker with Esther Wong, gave her testimonial of giving her life over to the Lord after years of addiction to alcohol and drugs.

A special offering was given to Mrs. Wong to aid the work of the mission.

The **Lindsay** Presbyterial Spring/Summer Rally was held at **Beaverton Church**, May 26. Bernice McCrae welcomed everyone. Thirty-two members were present. Leaskdale women conducted the worship service.

President June Nesbitt presided over business. Reports were approved as read. Reports were given by Synodical delegates.

A display of books was available and many different editions of the Bible were reviewed.

In the evening, Lynda Reid, guest speaker, showed slides illustrating her talk on Guatemala. Courtesies were extended by Eleanor Grant.

Edmonton Peace River Presbyterial welcomed Denise Van Wissen, nutritionist in Nicaragua, on May 19 at **First Church, Edmonton.** Denise showed slides of her work and research on the treatment of Vitamin A and iron deficiencies, and training of village nutrition promoters. Denise also spoke at a morning breakfast with Presbytery at Strathcona Church.

Lunch was at Millwoods Church where a slide presentation was again given. These slides made us aware of the poverty in this small country.

Norma Proudfoot thanked Denise. Later, a pizza supper with the youth took place at Strathcona, which was well attended.

Knox, Stratford was host to the WMS spring rally. 85 attended. Members from Exeter explained and demonstrated the making of a WMS banner in blue and silver. Two of these banners were won by Mitchell and Britton groups. A larger display of quilts and christening gowns were admired. Some were over 100 years old.

Women of Knox congregation explained the patterns and designs of the beautiful petit-point on chairs and kneeling benches in their

church. A delicious salad dinner was server by members of Knox.

Synodical delegates presented reports. The afternoon devotions were given by the Britton group, with Marion Whitfield using a flannelgraph of Jesus at the wedding in Cana.

The program included presentations by groups attending, with costumes representing the earliest meetings back in 1884. There was a glimpse of an internet meeting in perhaps about the year 2020. A lively kitchen band added more enjoyment.

The offering was received and dedicated by Robina Alexander. This enjoyable day was planned by 1st vice president Shirley Aicheson.

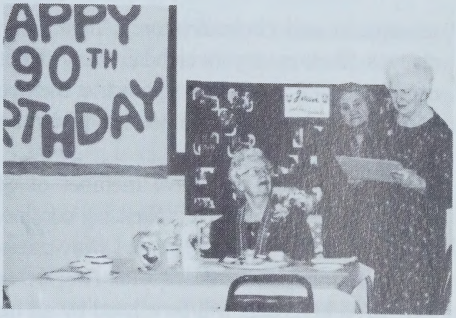
LOCAL

Left to right: Laura Griffith, Margaret, Marie and Edith Mee.

One of **Knox Leamington**'s oldest members, **Marie Faber** celebrated her 105th birthday on April 1, 1999 at Erie Glen Manor retirement home. She is pictured above with two members of the Margaret Ramsay Auxiliary and the student minister, Margaret Wisner from Windsor, Ontario.

Friends of **Jean Campbell** honoured her with afternoon tea in **Weston** Church on March 20, to celebrate her 90th birthday. She was presented with an Honorary Membership.

Jean was an ardent worker in the WMS.



Elizabeth Heath presents Jean with the Honorary Membership while Margaret Boulton waits to give her the honorary pin of her aunt, the late Miss B. Wright.

She held various offices in the local group over the years, the last as recording secretary for about 30 years. She regularly attended Presbyterial meetings and, on more than one occasion, was delegate to Synodical. She is now a resident of Kelso Pines Retirement Lodge in Owen Sound.

Ruth Rose Blackburn was born in Urbania, Nova Scotia on October 20th, 1900. Her family moved to Vernon when she was 5, and then a year later to Vancouver, where her father was a storekeeper. Ruth and her family were active members of Robertson Church which is where she met Stewart Blackburn, a theology student at Westminster Hall. Following graduation, they were married and moved to Cranbrook where Stewart became the pastor of Knox Presbyterian Church. Ruth and Stewart had three children, Malcolm, Donald and Jean. Stewart and Ruth also served God faithfully at St. John's, Medicine Hat, Vegreville in Alberta, St. Andrew's, Kamloops, St. Paul's, Banff, and Grace Church, Calgary.

In 1952 they accepted a call to St. Aidan's in New Westminster where they remained until 1966 when Stewart retired after 40 years of ministry. He passed away in August 1972. Through all of her years of ministry Ruth served

as organist and choir director in their many charges. She was very involved in many aspects of church work and always an active member of the WMS, having been made a Life Member in 1927.

Ruth was still an active member of St. Andrews, Newton until a broken leg confined her to hospital in 1996. She passed away peacefully in her sleep at the Peach Arch Hospital on May 31, 1999. Ruth will be missed by all her amily and friends.

The **Smithville** congregation lost two valued members, **Margaret (Dalrymple) Smithers** in October 1998, and her sister **Florence Dalrymple** on May 10, 1999.

Coming to Smithville in 1920, both were active in Sunday School, Young People's, WMS and choir. Each was blessed with beautiful singing voices. Margaret produced many Christmas and Easter pageants with the help of her two sisters and other young members.

Margaret married Harry Smithers in the early 30s after she graduated from nursing school, and for several years was busy raising five daughters and one son, as well as helping on the farm. Later Margaret became active in the WMS again, serving for years as President.

From 1972 to 1982, Harry and Margaret lived in Dunnville, where Margaret also served as WMS president. Following Harry's death, Margaret moved back to Smithville to the Legion Villa.

Florence Dalrymple lived at home, taking care of her mother, an elderly aunt and helping on the farm. She worked in a drug store. Before retiring she was assistant to the pharmacist.

Florence was active in all church work - treasurer for many years, president of WMS, Superintendent of Sunday School, taught a class, sang in the choir, and was instrumental in starting a Young People's group in war time.

CIRCULATION NEWS

Katherine Allen
Circulation Manager

In August a mailing was sent to the Glad Tidings secretary/contact person whom we have listed by your group. Hopefully by now your group has received this mailing as it contains the subscription lists and ideas for promotion. If by mid-September, the Glad Tidings mailing has not been received, the Glad Tidings secretary should check with the local post office or contact our office.

September is when the Glad Tidings secretary for your congregation will begin to collect subscriptions for the Glad Tidings magazine. You can help by having your subscription money ready when the Glad Tidings secretary starts collecting. The cost of the subscription is $10.00 for 2000 (includes GST) for six issues and the deadline is November 1, 1999. It is also helpful to ensure that the lists are returned by the deadline date for the changes/deletions or additions to be made for January.

Please make sure your address is correct on the subscription list before the Glad Tidings secretary returns it to the office. Especially check to see if your address includes a postal box or street/apartment number.

If you have transferred to another group, please quote your old subscription number which can be found on the label of the magazine and the name of the church/group you are now attending.

She was the willing hand at all times, always driving someone, someplace. Florence helped in Community Care for many years. Both sisters will be greatly missed.

The **Grace Stewart** WMS of **St. Columba, Vancouver**, regular meeting held on May 8 welcomed guest speaker, Esther Hong, of the Korean Presbyterian Church at Grace Church in Surrey. Esther heads up a "downtown" mission in Vancouver's east side, called the "All Tribes" Mission.

They provide hot meals, and services to all of the east end of Vancouver who wish to enjoy the services, but especially their mission is directed to native Indians who find themselves in difficulties.

Esther brought with her an assistant, Miriam, an aboriginal, who had been a drug user until she found Christ.

The Rev. **W.A. Henderson** died on Saturday afternoon in the hospital in **Wingham**. He was the father of Marg Henderson (Ministry and Church Vocations), Clara Henderson (International Ministries staff in Malawi), John Henderson (Director of Kitchener-Waterloo Interfaith Pastoral Counseling and now, minister at First Church, Collingwood), Sandy Henderson (a school teacher in Toronto) and father-in-law to Dorothy Henderson (Life and Mission Agency). Marg's mother has been ill and hospitalized in Wingham during the same period of Marg's father's final illness. Funeral service was held at **Lucknow** Presbyterian Church in Lucknow on June 22.

ANNIVERSARY

The 50th anniversary of the Stamford Presbyteriasn WMS as printed in the last issue was celebrated on April 25. Pictured below, left to right: Bea Hearn, Nancy Miller, Isobel McLeish, Shirley Ottman, Bessie Graham and Ruby Anderson (founding members), Celia Wallace.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Nora Henderson
Mimico, Etobicoke, ON

Kathleen McCallum
Sarah Williams
Burns, Mosa, ON

Ruth Rose Blackburn
St. Andrew's, Newton, BC

Mrs. Alice Livingston
St. Andrew's, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

Mrs. Helen Bartman
Mrs. Ethel Peart
Mrs. Olive Stauth
First, Port Colborne, ON

Florence Dalrymple
Margaret Smithers
Smithville, ON

Miss Carolee Roland
Rockway, St. Catharines, ON

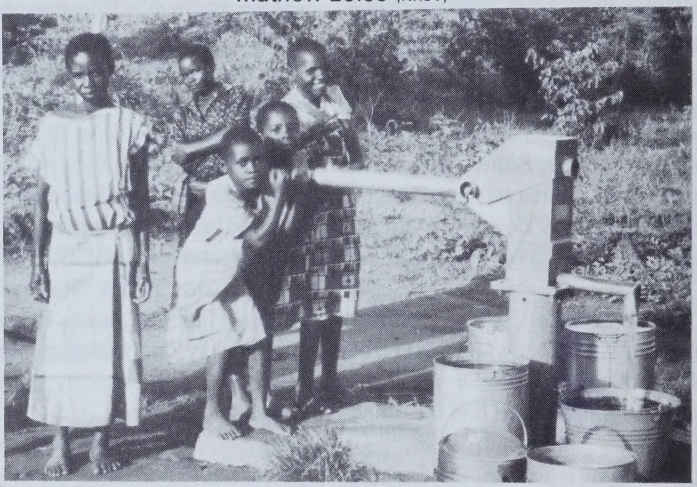
Mrs. Isabella Smith
St. Giles, St. Catharines, ON

Mrs. Barry (Janice) Townson
Chalmers, Walpole, ON

Mrs. Inez Anderson
St. James, Winnipeg, MB

. . .for I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. . .

Mathew 25:35 (NRSV)



diarrhoea, ascaris, dracunculiasis, hookworm, schistosomiasis, trachoma, cholera, typhoid, amoebic dysentery, dracunculiasis

Diseases prevented by a clean water supply.

That's why your donations to PWS&D are supporting *The Clean Water Project* of the Livingstonia Synod in Malawi. The wells, boreholes and sanitation facilities the Synod is helping communities build are significantly decreasing water-borne diseases.

Your donations are making a difference!

Presbyterian World Service & Development
50 Wynford Drive Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
phone: 416-441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301
e-mail: pwsd@presbyterian.ca web: www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

Glad Tidings is printed on recycled paper

Please report any errors/changes in address.

Glad Tidings
November/December 1999

Contents

Features

4 **A Child is Born to Us - A Christmas Worship Service** ..... *by Yeon Wha Kim*

7 **1999-2000 Mission Study: Sharing God's Mission Together**

10 **Cuba - a puzzle** ..... *by Janice Carter*

11 **Out Loud Speech** ..... *by Lee McKenna duCharme*

13 **Who & Where**

16 **Celebration and Pleasure**..... *by Charlotte Brown*

20 **A Tale of Three Trees -a poem** ... *by Elizabeth Symon*

21 **A Son, But Not My Son - Reflections of Joseph a poem** ..... *by J. Elizabeth Ritter*

22 **The Lord Cares for the Sparrow - a poem** ..... *by Conrad Knoch*

23 **Christmas - a poem**..... *by Amanda Carter*

23 **Sonnet for a Real Saviour - a poem** ..... *by Joan Dower Kosmachuk*

24 **Program - Leader's Guide to Alternate Study: Mission in the 21st Century**

30 **A Christmas Tree for the Birds** .. *by Joy MacKenzie*

36 **Share your joy with these last-minute Christmas gifts** ..... *by Esther Lee*

42 **Central America and the Caribbean Update: Special Giving Campaigns**..... *by Joe Reed*

48 **Swaddling Clothes - a poem**..... *by Gwyneth Bell*

Regulars

3 **Written in Love**

19 **Forward in Faith**

27 **Seniors on the Go** ..... *by Norma Tomlinson*

27 **"I"-Witness**

28 **Books**

31 **Mission in Action** - *Budding, McIntosh, Jones*

37 **News**

44 **In the Society**

46 **Circulation News**

47 **In Remembrance**

Glad Tidings

Nov./Dec. 1999
Volume 75 No.6

EDITOR:
L. JUNE STEVENSON
CIRCULATION MANAGER:
KATHERINE ALLEN

Published six times a year by the Women's Missionary Society, W.D. of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, 50 Wynford Drive, North York, Ont. M3C 1J7. Tel. 1 (416) 441-1111. Fax 1 (416) 441-2825. Publications mail registration number 09517. ISSN: 00170720.

Member of the Canadian Church Press and the Associated Church Press.

Subscription rate for 2000 $10.00 including G.S.T. per year. Single copies $1.70. W.M.S. members should send their subscriptions through their group Glad Tidings Secretary. Individual subscribers may order direct from Glad Tidings. Please make all money orders and cheques payable at par to Glad Tidings.

GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

Cover Photo:
L. June Stevenson

Written in Love

L. June Stevenson, Editor

November 1999

Attitude of Gratitude

Regretfully, several factors have combined to delay this issue. Among them were my holidays, and moving, plus the laying of carpet in our office area (for which we are very grateful).

I hope those who use them will receive the magazine in time to use the Christmas worship and the overseas address list. A number of people wrote or called to say that the overseas list was helpful to send cards, and to please continue to print it.

This issue is full of material vital to those "in mission". There was so much material I could not use everything planned. The worship service on page 4 addresses the disturbing issue of child prostitution, particularly in Asia. The WMS Council Executive voted to send a contribution of US$50 to the New Life Center in Thailand which rescues young girls from enforced prostitution.

December 6 will be the 10th anniversary of the tragic shooting of 14 women at Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique. The brutal violence was simply an extreme form of the violence that women live with every day - whether it be physical abuse, verbal abuse, sexual harassment in the workplace or sexist jokes and language. Lee McKenna duCharme's piece on page 12 challenges us all to not simply stand by, but to address these issues with heart and action.

There are stories of interaction with our partners in mission. See among them Charlotte Brown's account on page 18. The 1999-2000 Mission Study Themes: Sharing in God's Mission (Cuba) and Mission in the 21st Century are an invitation to new understandings of what it means to be in mission and to share with Christians in Cuba.

For myself, 1999 has been filled to overflowing. My son was married in July in Las Vegas. Experiencing that unreal (to say the least) world was a secondary experience to the lovely wedding. My daughter graduated in Education and is now teaching Grade One.

I bought a house in Ajax and moved away from the noise and busy-ness of Toronto in September. I am already sleeping better. For many years I have suffered with a sleep disorder. Now, with treatment and changes in my lifestyle I am reaping the benefits (more often) of a good night's sleep, and learning to live with the negative side effects.

A phrase that I learned this year expresses how I feel: have an "attitude of gratitude". At Christmas, and with the approach of a new year (a new millennium!), it is a good thought for each of us to carry forward.

Give thanks to God...at all times and for everything... (Ephesians 5:20). Celebrate the richness of the gift of God's son, a gift that defies expression in words, and go forward into the year 2000 with an "attitude of gratitude". Concentrate not on what you don't have, but what is already yours.

A blessed Christmas to all, dear friends, and a new millennium of continuing grace.

A Child is Born to Us

A Christmas Service of Worship

by Yeon Wha Kim

Call to Worship

L: As the prophet Isaiah said a long time ago, *A child is born to us.*

P: Indeed, the Christ-child is born to us.

L: As we see the Christ-child in a manger, who came to this world to bring hope and peace, we rejoice in God.

P: We praise God whose son, Christ, is the Messiah, and the Prince of Peace.

L: Let us worship God.

Hymn # 166 "Once in royal David's city" (Book of Praise 1997)

Opening Prayer

God of mystery and love, as we celebrate the birth of the Christ-child in this special season of Christmas, we wonder at your mystery of incarnation when your Word became embodied into human flesh. O God of grace, as we welcome the Christ-child among us, we come to understand that you love the vulnerable and the weak, even little creatures, infants in your great universe.

You are a God of love and compassion, the one who created us, and who sustains and encourages us. Gracious God, Christ comes to us, to bring hope, peace and goodwill to this broken and hurting world. Many people suffer illness and pain. There is much injustice in our world. Our world is still in need of hearing the message of Christmas. Help us to renew our faith in you and in your son, Christ our Saviour. We pray in Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

Scripture Isaiah 9: 2-7

Hymn # 164 "O Little Town of Bethlehem

Message : A Child is born to us

A popular piece of Christmas music is Handel's *Messiah.* In it, there is a well-known choral anthem called, "For unto us a child is born." Its words are based on the birth of the promised Messiah which is to come. Through this holy birth, the heavenly God was incarnated into human life. The Almighty God became a vulnerable, helpless being in

the infant Jesus.

The God-child Jesus was born into a poor family, the son of a carpenter, part of the working class. In this special season of Christmas, as we celebrate the holy birth of the God-child Jesus, we remember Jesus' wonderful ministry with children. Jesus welcomed them and blessed them through his earthly ministry.

One of mandates of the Women's Missionary Society is to support ministry for children and youth in Canada and overseas. Recently the WMS supported the movement against child prostitution in Thailand, which is related to the issue of sex tourism.

Girl-child prostitution is deeply rooted in the problem of chronic poverty in poor countries. In an article about the problem of child prostitution and child labour in poor countries in Asia, Dr. Estefania Aldaba Lim of the Philippines said, "poverty of the land engenders poverty of the mind and spirit." Child prostitution is clearly a moral problem in society. Many girl children are abused sexually in poor Asian countries.

The other serious issue is child labour. In the Philippines, almost 25% of children and youth between five and 14 years of age, are found in places where children work. This represents 5 to 7 million out of 28.4 million young people. Instead they should be going to school, and enjoying healthy childhoods, in preparation for their future.

Depressing news?

Do we hear the good news in this season of Christmas?

The prophet Isaiah delivered the good news that "a son is given to us." Yes! Indeed, *a child is born to us.* As we rejoice in this joyous time of Jesus' birth, let us also remember millions of children in poor countries who are suffering illness and injustice. Let us remember that our Lord Jesus loved children and blessed them.

Indeed, the good news is that *a child is given to us*!

Offering

Offertory prayer

L: Loving God, you are the giver of all good gifts. In your love, you gave even your only Son in whom we rejoice as our Saviour at this special season of Christmas.

P: As we have received your grace through your son, Christ, we bring our offerings to you as our token of gratitude.

All: Bless this offering to extend the work of your kingdom on this earth. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

L: Eternal God, you came to this world to live among us in Jesus. We give thanks to you that you are not like human rulers whose lives are distant from those of the poor.

You are the King of kings, yet you were born to a poor family, the son of a carpenter, and lived among ordinary people.

P: Hear our prayers, most gracious God. Help us to learn from your son Jesus who himself experienced the joy and pain of childhood.

L: Help us to learn to honour and protect the time of childhood for the sake of children in our midst and for all children who are in need of caring and nurturing.

P: Loving God, we pray for children whose lives are in danger because of the hunger, poverty and pain caused by human injustice.

L: We pray for children in poor countries in this world whose childhood is robbed by cruelty, and by severe child labour in inhumane workplaces.

All: Guide us to extend our Christian love and care for the many children who are suffering. Teach us again to welcome the Christ-child among us, to see your wonderful world with awe, to rejoice in your loving presence, to cherish the child within us and the children around us. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn # 149 "Away in a Manger"

Closing Prayer

L: Rejoice, the Christ-child is born to us.

P: The Saviour of the world is with us.

L: We rejoice in Christ who was born as a baby boy and who loved children and blessed them.

P: Let us go out into world to share this good news of Christ with others and to serve Christ our Lord.

Blessing

All: May the God of love and grace, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us and bless us all. Amen.

Rev. Yeon Wha Kim was ordained in 1989 by the Presbytery of East Toronto. She is in a one-year residency program for chaplaincy at Sick Children's Hospital, Toronto. This year, for the first time, the Christmas Worship was written in Korean and English by the same writer. The Korean service will be shared with women in the Korean WMS, and in Korean ministries of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

***1999-2000 MISSION STUDY:* SHARING GOD'S MISSION TOGETHER**
A Study of the Covenant Partnership between The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba

WHY STUDY CUBA?

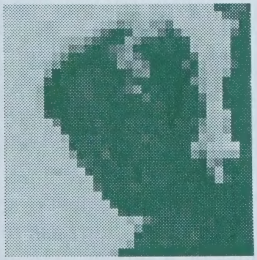
Why Cuba, and why now? The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba are partners in mission. In 1997, a formal agreement of partnership was formed between the two churches. At the 1999 General Assembly a recommendation of the International Affairs Committee was adopted:
"That congregations learn through the Mission Interpretation Co-ordinator and/or the 1999-2000 Mission Study on Cuba about the formal covenant of partnership between The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba and find ways to participate in it."

There are those who argue that Canadians should have nothing to do with a country under a socialist government. Cuba, who had economic and ideological ties to the USSR, has recently changed its constitution. It is now a "secular" state. "Churches are no longer considered marginal outsiders in Cuban society but are welcomed as constructive and active members" (International Affairs Report).

As Christians concerned about mission, we need to remember the Cuban people. Listen to their stories. Many are printed in the study. Another is printed here. It is the story of many young Christians, ordinary people, who are attempting to support themselves and their families, in spite of ongoing difficulties, imposed by local and foreign governments.

Following years of being discriminated against, Christians are now celebrating a new acceptance, and the freedom to move ahead openly with projects to improve conditions in society for everyone. The people live in hope of a better tomorrow. Let us join them, not only in hope but in action. Editor

Life in Cuba



The writer is a recently graduated physician in his mid twenties whom I met in Cuba in October 1997. He was attending the ecumenical seminary ISEBIT in Havana- having been a member of the Pentecostal church for three and a half years. He agreed to send his story to help people in Canada understand what life in Cuba is like - for a young person, and a Christian. Editor

I did not live at the beginning of the Revolution. I just have the memory of the older people. This period was very hard for Christian people. The Revolution changed the life of the nation in every sense, especially giving people hope and faith in a life without poverty and desperation. Thousands of people were given the opportunity to study and do something with their lives.

With the new atmosphere of romanticism and enthusiasm, the communist character of the revolution was declared and things became radical, especially for the churches. During this time, the majority of people professed the Roman Catholic faith which was more associated with the rich than the poor. On the other hand, Protestant churches were in constant war against

Catholicism.

A great many clergy left the country for places such as Spain. All foreign missioners were expelled from the country. Marxists consider religion "the opiate of the people", allied to the old system, and the dominant class in order to control the workers. Because of this, religious feelings had no part in the new society.

"On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."

A great crusade was declared against churches. Church members were not permitted to be members of the communist party. An Atheist Republic was established by a new Constitution. Churches emptied. Only a few people stayed, mostly older women.

A new curriculum, predominantly atheist, was introduced in all schools. The files of Christian children were stored in a special place. Many students were obligated to hide their faith if they wanted to go to university. In short, Christians were discriminated against and forced out of public life.

As the Bible says in Matthew 16:18, "the gates of hell will not prevail against the church". The sudden death of socialism in the 1990s occurred and our country faced a moral crisis. Desperation led many people to return to the churches. In fact, they filled them.

I was born into a communist family and was educated under the Revolution, and the ideals of Marxism and atheism. I used to ridicule my church and make jokes about it. Now I belong to her. The Holy Spirit has done its job!

Now, the way is difficult and heavy. Even the government took a chance on this political respect for churches. Part of this political change is a result of the Cuban Council of Churches. Many honest people in this organization rejected the government's propositions such as limiting the growth of churches. But, in my view, others "sold their souls to Caesar", in journal articles and videos.

It is difficult in this space to write about the complicated problems of our country. I beg you to not publish my name in the article. It could be dangerous for me here.

God bless you!

RECENT NEWS FROM CUBA:

CUBAN PROTESTANT CELEBRATION "VERY SUCCESSFUL"

June 25, 1999, NEW YORK CITY - Sunday's ecumenical Protestant celebration in Havana's Revolution Square was "very successful and a very strong witness to their belief in Jesus Christ," commented the Rev. Dr. Joan B. Campbell, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ, USA and among speakers at the June 20 event.

Dr. Campbell, who led a 20-member NCCC delegation, was cheered and applauded by Sunday's crowd when she said it was time for the United States to end its embargo against Cuba and asked Cubans' forgiveness for the suffering the embargo has created.

"For Christians, there are no embargoes, no barriers," she told the crowd, put at 100,000 in several estimates. "We find a way to talk to each other across all the divisions our governments create for us."

Those assembled Sunday included Cuba's President Fidel Castro along with several members of his cabinet. President Castro "sat, listened, never spoke," Dr. Campbell said. "He didn't ask to speak and didn't consider it proper. His respect was very apparent."

People from all over Cuba streamed into Revolution Square from all directions, carrying signs that said "Jesus Lives," "Justice, Peace and Unity" and "Let There Be Peace." The tightly choreographed,

three-hour celebration included hymns, prayers, a 45-minute sermon, a dramatic interpretation of Scripture, an orchestra, ballet and special music in styles from rap to classical.

For Christians, there are no embargos, no barriers.

Back in the United States, Dr. Campbell commented that her message - a decades-old one from the National Council of Churches of Christ- "certainly puts us publicly asking that the embargo be ended and tying it to a moral concern by saying it in an assembly where Cuba was showing it does allow people to express their faith freely."

The June 20 celebration in Havana marked the conclusion of a month-long celebration that included dozens of national, provincial, municipal and local church activities across Cuba.

For Cuban Protestants ("evangelicals"), "it was the very first time since the Revolution that they had such a public display of their faith," Dr. Campbell said. Forty-nine denominations participated. While no Roman Catholic hierarchs spoke or made themselves known, "I have no doubt but that there were Roman Catholic faithful in the audience," she said.

According to the Cuban Council of Churches Studies Center, 300,000 Protestants and 280,000 Roman Catholics worship regularly in Cuba (1998). The Cuban Council of Churches' member churches, some of which are more than 100 years old, are deeply rooted in Cuban society. The Methodist Church in Cuba has tripled its membership in the past five years, the Presbyterian Church in Cuba is among the fastest growing Presbyterian churches in the world.

While in Havana, several members of the NCCC delegation visited a tuition-free medical school that accommodates 1,700 students from across Latin America, and a hospital that specializes in problem pregnancy care and in reconstructive surgery - but has no x-ray machine.

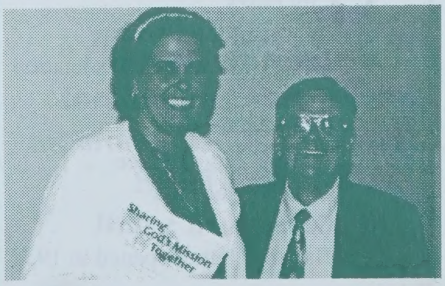
"The evangelical churches in Cuba have, for a long time, nourished the dream of celebrating a great Evangelical event in which all Evangelical churches could come together," according to a statement from the Cuban Council of Churches. "Never before [did they have] the conditions and the possibilities to make this dream become true. It is, precisely, now when they feel themselves capable to undertake this adventure of faith. Not with the purpose of proselytism, but with the aim of promoting Love, Peace and Unity among the Evangelicals in Cuba and among the whole Cuban people." The events will be open to the general audience, to all persons which will be interested to listen to the preaching of the Gospel, belonging or not to any religious denomination."

The (U.S.) National Council of Churches of Christ delegation was led by the Rev. Dr. Joan B. Campbell, General Secretary, and included delegates from other US mainline denominations.

CUBANS VISIT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICES

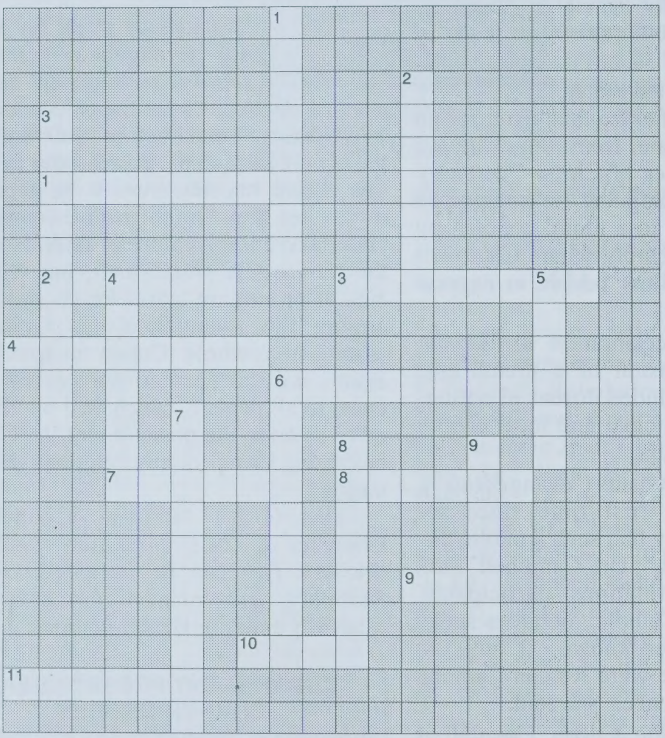
In September, Tania Petersson and and Jose Garcia, both of the Presbyterian-Reformed church in Cuba visited the national offices of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Margaret Robertson, Program Secretary WMS, presented them with copies of the 1999-2000 Mission Study. Tania and Jose are shown below .



Cuba

Solution on page 15.



by
JANICE
CARTER

ACROSS

1 One of the oldest Presbyterian congregations is found here (2 wds)
2 Cuban President
3 City buses
4 Important tourist centre
6 Motto of Women's Association (3 wds)
7 Capital City
8 Place to buy produce
9 Marxist Guerrilla
10 Currency
11 Havana church opened in 1932

DOWN

1 Site of Evangelical Seminary
2 Main source of hard currency
3 Church camp is located here (2 wds)
4 Language of Cuba
5 First Presbyterian woman ordained
6 Cuba's main crop (2 wds)
7 Truimphed in January 1959
8 Imposed by the USA
9 Pastor and recipient of E.H. Johnston Award

Out Loud Speech

by Lee McKenna duCharme

Remembering the December 6 massacre of 14 women in Montreal

Two years ago Walter Brueggeman delivered a series of lectures at Knox College on the topic of "Loss, Rage and Sadness in a Time of Exile". I have thought long and hard on the words that he left with us. One has had particular significance: "The only antidote to torture and torture's memories is OUT LOUD SPEECH." The therapeutic, healing value of speech, having one's story told out loud. About that time the one that we have come to know here in Toronto as Jane Doe had her OUT LOUD SPEECH. Eleven years of importunance at long last yielding speech.

Anne-Marie Edward, Marise Leganière, Geneviève Bergeron, Hélène Colgan, Nathalie Croteau, Barbara Daigneault, Maria Haviernick, Barbara Maria Klueznick, Maryse Leclair, Anne-Marie Lemay, Sonia Pelletier, Michèle Richard, Annie St-Arnault, Annie Turcotte: Every year at this time, you have your out loud speech. We remember you with words, memorials, vigils. And wonder how such a thing could have happened. We remember you through the medium of our humanity, speech, a medium that has never quite fully belonged to us.

It was with the development of language that we were first given a precise and human identity, a consciousness of self, of the "I". But its gift of symbolism, as the vehicle of everything from ego development to cultural expression, has been unequally shared. Language has been truly "man-made", and is full of examples of the semantic derogation of women. Masculinity is the unmarked form: the assumption is that the world is male unless proven otherwise. Femineity is the marked form: it is the proof of the otherwise.

For more than 250 years the English-speaking world has been operating according to John Kirby's Grammatical Rules, which, among other things, decreed what most understood to be true, not a new thing: that the male gender was not only more important, but more comprehensive than the female, the universal category, the norm. The sexist principles encoded in the language by males continue today to exert a considerable influence over thought, reality and story by preserving the categories of male and minus-male.

Which means that we still see fathers giving away daughters at weddings like so much chattel; newly married women who disappear into the patriarchal anonymity of Mrs X; a Globe & Mail editorial that begins with something about a man and his castle; reports of female chairmen and such like; glass ceilings and old boys networks and school textbooks that purport to tell the human story, but only tell half of it; celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that obstinately do not include any plans to rewrite its exclusivistic language.

"The only antidote to torture and torture's memories is OUT LOUD SPEECH."

Walter Brueggeman

Oh, sure, we're making some progress. Many of us now have an inclusive language dictionary on our shelves. But we still have a long way to go, particularly in the church. Whether singing or reading, women are still the ones obliged to make the semantic effort to find ourselves within the language.

Overtures to the General Assembly as the new hymn book was under consideration reflected the deep reluctance in this church to use anything but male language with respect to God. While female imagery and salutation are considered somehow idolatrous, raising the creaturely characteristic of maleness to the level of divine somehow is not.

So what does all this have to do with our annual remembering of these 14 women? Part of the answer to the Why did this happen? question must surely lie in the instrument of our remembering, in speech, in language, the fundamental building block of all human cultures. The very instrument of our story-telling affirms daily in conversation, media and the arts, the marked status of women as minus-males. Marc Lepine was angry at women who were stepping outside of the roles he understood to be prescribed by society and described in language. Semantic derogation makes other kinds of derogation easier.

Out loud speech, our stories told: that is what we want. But the instrument of our remembering must continue to be pushed and stretched and urged into becoming truly ours, an instrument no longer marking us as minus.

- Lee McKenna duCharme is Interim Minister at Gateway Church, Toronto.

Overcoming poverty can seem overwhelming.

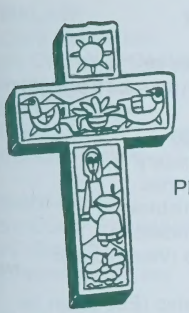
Mayan women are discriminated against twice—for being Mayan, and for being women. In Guatemala they are at the bottom of the rung—illiterate, poor, and often abused.

The Fraternidad de Presbyterials Mayan is working to change the statistics. With the support of PWS&D, they are helping women break cycles of poverty and discrimination through literacy and training programs, and by providing the start-up capital to help start small businesses.

Your support can help each day seems a little less overwhelming for a family in Guatemala.

Presbyterian World Service & Development
50 Wynford Dr. Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
Tel: 416-441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301
Email: pwsd@presbyterian.ca ♥ web: www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

Working together, we can make a difference



WHO & WHERE

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY - 1999-2000

National Office - 50 Wynford Dr North York ON M3C 1J7
Phone 1-416-441-1111; 1-800-619-7301; Fax 1-416-441-2825

NATIONAL STAFF

Executive Secretary - Charlotte Brown
Editor - L June Stevenson
Program Secretary - Margaret Robertson
Manager, WMS Book Room - Trish Heidebrecht
Office Secretary & Circulation, Glad Tidings - Katherine Allen
Financial Officer - Jeanette Whynotte
Customer Service (Book Room) - Martha Carmichael

RETIRED FORMER STAFF MEMBERS OF WMS

Margaret Boyd
1351 Hunt Club Rd
Ottawa ON K1V 1A6

Tamiko Corbett
3863 W 18th Ave
Vancouver BC V6S 1B4

Agnes Hislop
3039 - 49 Ave Apt 106
Red Deer AB T4N 3V8

Ivy Howard
6649 Granville St
Vancouver BC V6P 4X1

Giollo Kelly
1148 Broadview Ave
Toronto ON M4K 2S5

Frieda Matthews
Bridge Street Retirement Residence
85 Bridge St E
Belleville ON K8N 1L9

Marjorie McMullin
240 Dunn Ave Apt 513
Toronto ON M6K 3K6

Doreen Morrison
935 Birchmount Rd
Apt 712 Walton Place
Toronto ON M1K 5K1

Evelyn Murdoch
1964 Main St W Apt 1107
Hamilton ON L8S 1J5

Mary Nichol
R R #1 123 Lombardy Rd
Smiths Falls ON K7A 5B8

May Nutt
5 Shady Golfway Apt 216
North York ON M3C 3A5

Margaret Ramsay
River View Terrace
104 Brant Ave Rm 204
Brantford ON N3T 3H3

Athalie Read
1813 Hwy 2E RR 1
Brockville ON K6V 5T1

Beatrice Scott
Box 364 870 Goderich St
Port Elgin ON N0H 2C0

Catherine Watson
Box 235
Watford ON N0M 2S0

Ida White
209 Keays St
Goderich ON N7A 3N4

Barbara Woodruff
23 Thorncliffe Park Dr Apt 607
Toronto ON M4H 1H7

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA REGIONAL STAFF

British Columbia
Youth and Education Director
Janet Tremblay
5391 Norfolk St
Burnaby BC V5G 1G3

Pastoral and Program Director
Wayne Stretch
3459 Richmond Rd
Victoria BC V8P 4P6

Alberta
VACANT

Saskatchewan
Educational Consultant
Margaret Wilson
323 - 6th Ave N
Saskatoon SK S7K 2S3

Manitoba/NW Ontario
VACANT

Southwestern Ontario
Area Education Consultant
Erin Crisfield
c/o Chalmers Presbyterian Church
342 Pond Mills Rd
London ON N5X 3X5

Camping Director
Gwen Brown
Box 2418

Exeter ON N0M 1S7

Youth Consultant
Spencer Edwards
9 Commissioners Rd E
Apt 804
London ON N6C 5Z7

Toronto/Kingston Education Consultant
Lynda Reid
c/o Riverdale Presbyterian Church
662 Pape Ave
Toronto ON M4K 3S5

Youth Consultant
Jackie Keatings
112 Watson Crt
Garson ON P3L 1K7

Mission Superintendent
VACANT

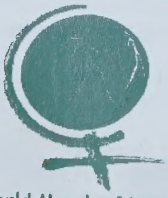
Quebec & Eastern Ontario
VACANT

Atlantic Provinces Executive Secretary of the Atlantic Mission Society
VACANT

Youth Director
Pat Allison
15 Maple Ave
Sackville NB E4L 4C5

Regional Staff
Donald MacKay
226 Oak St
New Glasgow NS B2H 4H2

Director of Korean Ministries
Paul Ryu
216 Humberside Ave
Toronto ON M6P 1K8



World March of Women

LIFE & MISSION AGENCY

National Office - 50 Wynford Dr North York ON M3C 1J7
Phone 1-416-441-1111; 1-800-619-7301; Fax 1-416-441-2825

EXECUTIVE STAFF 1999-00

J P Ian Morrison - General Secretary
Gordon Haynes - Canada Ministries
Marjorie Ross - International Ministries
Susan Shaffer - Ministry/Church Vocations
Jim Czegledi - Education for Discipleship (Worship and Evangelism)
Dorothy Henderson - Education for Discipleship (Education for the Faith, Ministry with Children &Youth)
Annemarie Klassen - Education for Discipleship (Stewardship and Mission Education)
Stephen Allen - Justice Ministries
Richard Fee - Presbyterian World Service and Development
Keith Knight - Resource Production and Communication

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

CENTRAL AMERICA
Joseph Reed
c/o International Ministries
50 Wynford Drive
North York ON M3C 1J7

EL SALVADOR
Jim and Brenda Patterson,
c/o Federacion Bautista de El Salvador,
Calle Mexico No. 1008,
Barrio San Jacinto,
San Salvador, El Salvador,
C.A.

EUROPE
Brian Johnston
c/o Protestant Theological Institute
Piata Avrom Iancu 13
Cluj-Napoca 3400 Romania

GUATEMALA
Ken & Kennis Kim
GUA629 - 8424 NW 56th St
Miami Florida 33166 USA

GUYANA
Christopher Jorna
c/o Presbyterian Manse
Skeldon
Corriverton Corentyne
Berbice Guyana

INDIA
Pauline Brown
Jobat Christian Hospital
District Jhabua
Jobat MP 457990 India

Clarence & Catherine McMullen
900 Steeles Avenue, Unit 505,
Thornhill, ON L4J 8C2

Margaret & Jake Vanderzweerde
7414 Westfield Dr
Niagara Falls ON L2J 3V8

JAPAN
Jack & Beth McIntosh
1-6-7 Shiragane Kita-ku
Kokura Kitakyushu Shi
Japan 802-0074

Michael & Wendy Lessard-Clouston
1-1-127 Uegahara
Nishinomiya
Hyogo 662 Japan

KENYA
Richard Allen
c/o PCEA Kikuyu Hospital
PO Box 45
Kikuyu Kenya
East Africa

MALAWI
Clara Henderson
c/o Church of Central Africa Presbyterian
Blantyre Synod
Box 413
Blantyre Malawi

Bruce Hickling
c/o CCAP Ekwendeni Hospital
PO Box 19
Ekwendeni Malawi

Glenn & Linda Inglis
c/o Church of Central Africa Presbyterian
Blantyre Synod
Box 413
Blantyre Malawi

Heather Jones
c/o Church of Central Africa Presbyterian
Livingstonia Synod
Education Department
Box 112
Mzuzu Malawi

Mark & Pam Young
c/o International Ministries,
50 Wynford Drive,
Toronto, ON M3C 1J7

MIDDLE EAST
Makram & Mona Barsoum
PO Box 26760
CY-1647
Nicosia Cyprus

MOZAMBIQUE
Mark Gordon
c/o Igreja Presbiteriana De Mocambique,
Projects Office,
Caixa Postal 21,
Maputo, Mozambique

NICARAGUA
Denise Van Wissen
Casa de Azucena Antunes de la Shell,
½ c al norte,
Ocatal, Nueva Segovia,
Nicaragua

David & Aleida Villalonga
Contigo al Colegio Rubenio
Casa C-15 Managua
Nicaragua

NEPAL
Richard & Ling Schwarz
Box 5,
Pokhara, Nepal

NIGERIA
Arlene Onuoha
c/o International Ministries
50 Wynford Drive
Toronto ON M3C 1J7

TAIWAN
John & Betty Geddes
7 Alley 16 - Lane 315
Shih Pai Rd Sec 2
Peitou Taipei
Taiwan 11217 ROC

Joy Randall
Changhua Christian Hospital
135 Nan Siau St
Changhua Taiwan 500 ROC

Marlene Buwalda
c/o Presbyterian Bible College
No 56 Kao Feng Rd Box 7
Hsinchu 30035 Taiwan ROC

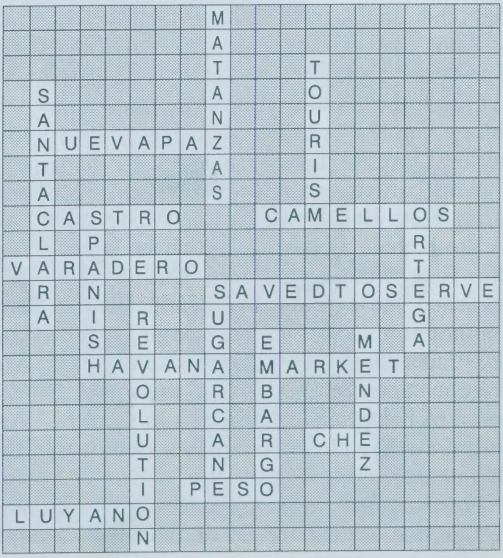
ASSOCIATE MISSIONARY CATEGORY
Peikang & Ellen Rae Dai
(serving in China)
c/o International Ministries,
50 Wynford Drive,
Toronto ON M3C 1J7

Doo Je Kim
c/o Presbyterian Church of Korea
135 Yunji-Dong Chongro-ku
Seoul 100470 Korea

John Yoo
c/o St Andrews Church
73 Galle Rd
Colombo 3 Sri Lanka

Sean & Lezlie Allison
c/o Wycliffe Bible Translators
SIL - BP 1299
Yaounde Cameroun

Cuba Puzzle Solution



Celebration and Pleasure

by Charlotte Brown
WMS Executive Secretary

I stood at the balcony of my hotel room overlooking beautiful Lake Biwa, north of Osaka, Japan, and watched the sunshine sparkle on the clear blue water. Only moments before, five of us had entered the room which would be our home for the next three days.

As I made my way to the lower level of the hotel into the meeting room, a sea of colour immediately surrounded me. Everywhere I looked; women were dressed in beautiful kimonos made of every fabric and colour imaginable. It was the beginning of the 50th Anniversary ceremony and the 51st Assembly of the National Christian .Women's Association of the Korean Christian Church in Japan.

I, as a special guest representing the Women's Missionary Society, Jack and Beth McIntosh, Presbyterian Church in Canada missionaries to Koreans in Japan, and other guests from Korea were ushered to front seats for the opening service of worship. A banner across the front proclaimed the theme 'Looking unto the Future-Going Forth with a Vision '(this is my best English translation!).

With participants from various presbyteries, Rev. Hae Joong Kyung, Moderator of the Korean Christian Church in Japan, the first woman to hold this office, preached the sermon and conducted the communion service. Even though I could not understand the words spoken, (they were in Japanese and Korean) there was a sense of being one in the Spirit as the service drew to a close. As always, Beth was by my side acting as translator.

Presentations were given to those in recognition of their service on the Executive of the Women's Association for 10 years. A gala banquet, with greetings from international guests, music, song, dance and skits from delegates representing the various areas, followed a delicious 10-course meal. Part of the enjoyment of eating in Japan was in the presentation of the food. Meals were so appetizing and appealing. There were times when I just had to take a picture of my meal before it was consumed!

An air of celebration and pleasure was very evident throughout the gathering as delegates visited and reconnected with friends. Theme speakers, presentations and group discussions focused on a variety of themes. The role of women in the Church highlighted the need for women to recognize that they too can address the issues of Christian living with their own integrity and identity. Although the decision was made by the Church in 1979 to ordain women as elders, there are very few women elders within congregations.

Another woman, in sharing the story of losing her eight-year-old son, spoke of the necessity within the life of the church to develop a caring heart. The problem of sexual harassment and violence in the home was also highlighted. The issue of care of the elderly was discussed in light of the fact that by 2020, twenty-five percent of the population in Japan will be over 60 years of age.

The National Christian Women's Association had a dream 40 years ago. Through the sacrificial gifts and efforts of women over those years, this vision has now reached fulfillment in the building of a seniors' home called Saektong No Ie

第5
主題 : 生命を育む未来
생명을 키우는 미래를
在日大韓基督教全國教会女性連合会
1999. 6. 29

(Rainbow House) for elderly Japanese and Koreans. I was privileged to spend my first night in Japan in an apartment at Rainbow House and met some of the residents there.

The international guests, escorted by Jack and Beth McIntosh, spent an afternoon visiting the nearby city of Kyoto. There we heard of the ministry of Rev. Choi Joong Shik, a minister of the KCCJ commissioned to community centered ministry. A small area between the Kamo and Takase rivers houses some 300 Korean residents, many of them elderly, in a shantytown that sprang up after the war. They lack electricity and running water.

However the church, community and government are working together on a housing project through an association called Higashikujo Ecumenical Action and Training (HEAT). Masako Kajikawa, a young woman working full time in the HEAT office, provides residents with support and advice as they negotiate with the government concerning their needs. The future plan is to remove the shantytown and replace it with a park along the river, after the residents are situated in the new housing project.

Rev. Jung Soon Suh, General Secretary of the National Christian Women's Association and pastor of a church house in Osaka, had been a guest at the May WMS Council meeting. It was good to reconnect with her. Representatives who visited Canada a year ago for the Japan-North America Conference were also familiar faces in a place where so many others were new.

While in Osaka, I attended worship services, both Japanese and Korean, at the Osaka Korean Church. The monthly local women's association meeting, with 60 women present, was held following the service. Reports were presented from the Education and Evangelism convenors, the group composed of widows, the Martha group that does calligraphy and the Mary group which provides cooking lessons and Bible study for younger members. The women also serve lunch to over 200 people each Sunday after church. They are divided into 12 groups and take turns for this task.

Once a month some of their members go to the Kawasaki area where a meal is prepared and served to the homeless. It happened that the women were preparing this meal on a day when I could join them. We travelled in the church van to a restaurant owned by a Japanese United Church minister. Across the street were many make-shift tents of plastic and cardboard which provided some shelter for the homeless.

Containers of warm rice appeared and the women got to work. The method seemed simple enough. Take a cup of rice in your hand, add some jam in the center and with a certain pressing action, you should end up with a rice ball. With practice and much laughter and direction from my Korean friends, my rice balls gradually took on the right shape. (It should end up in a triangular shape). These were placed on a tray and each one was covered with a piece of green seaweed. The rice balls were served with soup and a sweet to the men waiting outside on the street.

As a tourist, I enjoyed a visit to historical Osaka castle and the experience of travelling on Japan's subway and train systems. It is hard to describe the scope of my feelings on a day trip to the city of Hiroshima, the Peace Park and the Peace Memorial Museum. One could not help but be affected by the pictures and exhibits in the museum, depicting the pain, devastation and destruction left after the dropping of the A-bomb, as one silently moved from room to room.

Elie Wiesel, recipient of the Nobel Prize for Peace 1986, wrote in a book in the museum, 'We shall remember, we must remember, for only in memory is there true

hope for us all.' Mother Teresa closed with the words, '... let us remember- works of love and prayer are works of peace' (1984).

The trip to Japan has long passed but the memories remain. Before the 51st Assembly ended, I was approached by a woman from the Church in Kobe, Choi Ok Dong. She expressed her gratitude for the gift from the Presbyterian Church in Canada sent in response after the Kobe earthquake disaster in 1996. She reminded me that their church continues to pray for the Presbyterian Church in Canada each morning. Isn't that what being in mission partnership is all about? May we too continue to remember in prayer our sisters and brothers in the faith in the Korean Christian Church in Japan.

Forward in Faith

Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart, therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all. Galatians 6:9-10a

As I read this scripture passage I thought of the members of the Women's Missionary Society. How easy it would be to grow weary when there seems so few to carry out the work of the Society. However, that is not what is happening. Our members are restructuring their groups to meet their needs. Weariness does not seem to be an issue. Our members are faithfully carrying on using their gifts and talents that keep the WMS a vital part of the mission of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

During the May Council meeting at Crieff, it was moved that a task force be appointed by Council Executive to research how WMS givings should be allocated for local and national missions.

Many Presbyterials have expressed a desire to keep some of their givings within their own areas for local, hands-on mission. One question the task force will look at is, "What effect will a decrease in our givings to "head office" mean to the WMS and the church as a whole.

Our grant to the Life and Mission Agency in 1998 was $559,228. We are committed to "seek to preserve" this grant until the year 2001. I ask your prayers for those asked to serve on this task force.

The sub-executive met August 31, 1999. During the meeting Giollo Kelly, treasurer, gave a financial update. It is with thankfulness that I report givings were up over the same period last year. A special thank you to group and presbyterial treasurers who have taken the time to ensure that their givings have arrived over the summer months. Most of us have our time of rest and relaxation during the summer but the work of the society carries on and bills must still be paid. Thank you and keep up the good work.

I am continually humbled when I talk to members of the WMS. Your willingness to accept challenges and get the job done is evident throughout the church. Your ongoing concern for children and youth; for getting mission resources into your churches and communities; for the many creative ways that your givings are realized and for your faithfulness and dedication to the work of the Society.

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each [person] should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 NIV

Yours in faith,
Mary Moorhead, President WMS

CHRISTMAS POETRY

A Tale of Three Trees

I heard the story of three trees
On a hill, growing tall.
I listened to the tale and yes,
I thought I knew it all.

One aimed to be a treasure chest,
The second one a boat,
The third to reach up to the sky,
The storyteller wrote.

The first one, I said to myself,
Of course, a Christmas tree!
With trinkets hanging on each branch,
For what else could it be?

And the third one, without a doubt,
A cathedral. You see
I didn't wait to hear the tale,
I knew what it would be.

A word caught my attention then.
I listened and I heard
I had interpreted it all wrong,
And oh, how I had erred!

The first became a treasure chest,
The greatest one on earth,
For the Christ child in Bethlehem,
The manger at his birth.

I learned there was a humble boat
Made from the second tree,
And the disciples sailed on it
With Christ, at Galilee.

And there was no cathedral built
With spires reaching above,
The third was used to form a cross,
A symbol of God's love.

We may make plans, as did the trees
Which grew on that hillside,
But there are greater plans for us
If we let God decide.

Elizabeth Symon

Elizabeth Symon lives in Shawnigan Lake, BC. She has had poems published in Canadian Writer's Journal, Time for Rhyme, Poets' Podium, Ideals, Broken Streets, and local newspapers.

A Son, But Not My Son
Reflections of Joseph

A son, but not my son,
Being conceived of the Spirit.
Created to be both God and man on earth
During a short, brief time.
Even as a child
Forever in the Temple, learning
Greater things than I could imagine.
His father, but not his father.
I weep, though
Joy fills my heart, as this young man
Kneels to pray,
Learning, consistently loving.
My son, but not my son.
Never. Shall I never understand?
Oh Lord, show me your truth.
Praise and glory are forever yours, but
Quiet my unbelieving heart.
Red wine - He made from water.
Samaritans - He changed their ways.
Taught the disciples with parables
Until Jews and Gentiles alike believed.
Veritable miracles open before me.
Until,
'Wakening, the scales fall from my eyes.
X-ray my heart, Lord, examine me.
Yes, yes, I believe! I believe!
Zeal and passion for your grace, are mine.

Your Son, Lord, our Only Son!

J. Elizabeth Ritter

J. Elizabeth Ritter lives in Nova Scotia. She writes stories and poetry.

The Lord Cares for the Sparrow

Outside my window the weather was harsh
The wind came howling across the marsh.
The gusts waved branches in a frenzied lurch,
And sparrows sought branches for an afternoon perch.

My heart went out to these feathered friends;
What could I do to make amends?
I, in the warmth of my cozy hold,
And they, outside, in the bitter cold.

I opened the window to let out some heat;
And looked for something for sparrows to eat,
I donned a parka and zipped up tight;
Determined to face the bitter wind's might.

I filled my pockets with crumbs and bits,
And stuck my hands in a warm pair of mitts.
Some crumbs I sprinkled from tree to sill,
To coax the sparrows their tummies to fill.

They paid no heed to the food I proffered
Nor noticed the window, nor warmth it offered.
So I stood for a moment in the winter's chill,
Then tried to shoo them to the window sill.

I thought if I were only a bird;
I would tell them in language they could have heard,
What I meant was only the best for them
That my heart goes out to their kith and kin.

But really, how odd, that I should forget
'Tis the Lord who cares for the sparrow, yet,
His promise is such that none should fall
But what He's aware and knows them all.

If such be His promise for feathered friend
Then why should we worry, be anxious, contend?
We, too, by His loving hand are fed.
He knows me and numbers the hairs of my head.
Not only just bits and crumbs He has given,
He gives us His word, and his life, and His heaven.

Conrad Knoch

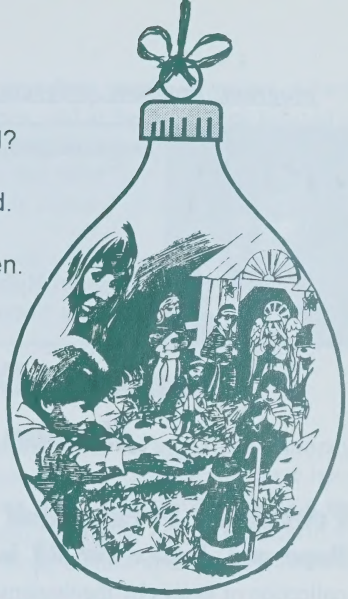
Conrad Knoch lives in Stoughton, SK.

Christmas

Jesus was born one beautiful night,
It was a joyful, joyful sight.
Wise men and shepherds came from afar,
They walked a long way and followed a star.
Donkeys and cattle gathered around,
For even they heard the angels' sound.

Amanda Carter

Amanda Carter is a Grade six student who attends Knox Presbyterian Church in Kouchibouguac, NB.



Sonnet for a Real Saviour

On Christmas cards and windowfront display
Lit up by stars of incandescent light
Are barns and stables decked in bright array
To recreate that first real Christmas night
Pastel madonnas smiling so tranquil
As if they'd never laboured in the birth
And baby Jesus sleeping calm and still
Haloed as if he'd never come to earth
The braying of the donkey in the stall
The din of soldiers itching for a fight
The bleating sheep and oxen's noisy call
Belie the tale of silent, holy night
Romantics may sing manger lullabies
But in my crèche the baby Jesus dies.

Joan Dower Kosmachuk

Joan Dower Kosmachuk is a freelance writer from Brampton, ON.

program...program...program...program...program...program.....

Margaret Robertson
Program Secretary

Leader's Guide to Alternate Study:
Mission in the 21st Century

Friendship Press Adult Study:

Hope and Justice for All in the Americas: Discerning God's Mission is a collection of essays by theologians and pastors from Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States - papers and discussions from the 1997 Missiology Consultation in Costa Rica, sponsored by the National Council of Church of Christ (USA). It is generally an academic collection and particularly suited to those who want to delve deeper into mission.

Several of the chapters are more suited to our Canadian context than others. Please find below discussion questions designed to use with those particular chapters.

Chose one or more people to read a chapter, highlight the contents and lead a discussion.

Hunger for God, Hunger for Humanity: A Southern Perspective Heidi Hadsell (p 43) - Sometimes we hear people say, "Those immigrants are taking our jobs and changing our country." This chapter suggests that changes in our economy are caused by global economics (U.S. named in the book but this also applies to Canada). "...considerable anger has been directed at such targets as legal and illegal immigrants who are perceived to be taking...jobs, and through access to state aid in various forms of welfare, to be destroying a system that functioned well for several postwar decades".

1. Discuss how global economics affect our lives personally, in families, in community and in our country.
2. Look up scriptures that ask us to care for the earth, the poor and marginalized.
3. Discuss what you and/or your group can do to follow one or more of the scriptural mandates in light of what global economics is doing to our families, communities and country.

Mission in the Americas in the Twenty-first Century: A Northern Perspective *Harvey Cox* (p 82) - This chapter looks closely the connection between the Market Revolution and the Rise of Pentecostalism.

Look at the "Pentecostal paradigm" from the story of Pentecost in Acts where "at the outset of

Christian history the Holy Spirit empowered a community that drew people of various cultures into itself, without depriving them of their cultural identities, and at the same time refused to be swept into the economic culture of its own day. The paradigm is the power to forge an inclusive new community, not elsewhere but here, and at the same time to stand against the leveling and homogenizing power of the reigning economic culture." (94)

1. Discuss..."Will Pentecostals - and other Christians, as well - allow ourselves merely to be swept along by the consumer-market culture, together with its destructive values? How can we reclaim the power of this Pentecost paradigm?" (94)
2. How can you avoid getting caught up in the economic culture that creates hardship for the poor and marginalized while undermining Christian values, family and traditions.

The Incarnation of Faith in African American culture: The Struggle for Minority Rights in the North *Jeremiah Wright* (p 95) - In the past, African Americans have been rendered invisible in the North American culture in history, political decisions, theology and Christianity. We used to view missionaries as the civilized taking the gospel to uncivilized Africans; Western or English culture as superior to African culture and white culture as equalizing Christianity.

1. What evidence shows changes in this pattern?
2. Name the ways that we can learn about other cultures and their ways of worship and expressing faith.

Religious Pluralism and the Emergence of the Excluded: Challenges to Ecumenism and Mission in Latin America *Walter Altmann* (p 119)- Understanding the gospel and mission changes as the context changes. In 1910, the Mission conference excluded Latin America as already being Christianized. By 1996, the view had changed - realizing that we need to understand and celebrate the gospel in all the different cultures.

1. There is a growth of religious expressions (formerly suppressed) in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially in the indigenous and African communities. There is also a growth of evangelical and Pentecostal religiosity. What is causing this? Without advocating syncretism, how can we learn about the aspects of the faith of others in different contexts?
2. In the 1960's the poor in Latin America found their voices through reading scripture in their own contexts. We know it as Liberation Theology. "The excluded are becoming the evangelizers and the nonexcluded the evangelized." (129) What does this mean to our understanding of God's call to mission for all?

Three Biblical Reflections for Our Time *Elsa Tamez* (p 134 ff) -
1. From Job, "Mission today implies, among other things, that we should try a thousand ways to recover the sensitivity among people and to reclaim solidarity with those who are excluded. To discern the right moments for silence and for crying out, the moments for listening and for embracing of the grace of God is the first step". (140) Name the opportunities you can find for listening to those who cry out for justice. Chose one or more ways, listen and respond.

2. 1 Peter 2:1-10 calls us to be Living Stones. In the chapter, our house is compared to a house of horrors. How can we build a spiritual house that has room for all?
3. "For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit to the yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1) There are two gospels today - the free market that leads to slavery and Christianity that leads to life, freedom, human dignity and a sense of belonging. How can we find freedom over slavery?

FOR ANYONE "INTERESTED IN" OR ALREADY "IN MISSION"
- A useful book that clarifies major concepts of mission in a clear fashion while retaining the complexities of the issue:

Concepts of Mission by *Glory E Dharmaraj*, United Methodist Church
This is an excellent primer on mission and missions. I would recommend it to all areas of the church who are in mission, including women's groups, mission committees, sessions, short term study groups and anyone who is serious about studying mission.

The book is divided in three parts:
Part I Biblical Basis for Mission looks at Abraham/cost of mission; Exodus/freeing of oppressed; Prophets/calling people to return to God, working for peace and justice; Jesus' ministry/transformational mission; Mission of 12 apostles and seventy appointed and sent out in pairs/sending and receiving missioners; Mission in every place; Jesus' healing ministry/need for repairing and restoring ministries today; Different views of mission/one gospel; mutuality in mission; and Lydia/women in mission.
Part II Selected Concepts of Mission looks at selected concepts of mission including contextualization, ecumenism, evangelism, gospel and culture, indigenization, local and global mission, mission and missions, missionary, partnership and salvation.
Part III Selected Social Justice Issues titles include Aging, Child Labour, Development, Environmental Justice, Globalization, Human Rights, Non-Governmental Organizations, Nuclear Weapons, Racism, Refugees, Solidarity, Technology and Women's Empowerment.
The question *What is mission*? often arises. The chapter on Mission and Missions helps to clarify that question. ***Mission is the goal and purpose of God for us.***
Missions are the human objectives by which we respond to God's love for us.

Two helpful quotes come from Lesslie Newbiggin (Anglican missionary pastor and Bishop from England to Madras, India); ***"Mission is an acted-out doxology."***
"Mission is the entire task for which the Church is sent into the world. By 'missions' I mean those specific activities undertaken by human decisions to bring the gospel to places or situations where it is not heard, to create a Christian presence in a place or situation where there is no such presence or no effective presence."

Scripture basis, background material, discussion questions or thoughts for reflection and prayer are included in each short (2-3 page) chapter. This makes the study book user-friendly.

Although it is written for the United Methodist Church, there are very few references to that church and when they occur, The Presbyterian Church in Canada or the Women's Missionary Society can be easily substituted.

Seniors on the Go

Living out of Cans, Boxes and Bags

by Norma Tomlinson

Christmas Cookies

Hay Stacks
Melt in top of double boiler:
1 pkg chocolate chips - 8 oz
1 pkg butterscotch chips - 8 oz
Stir both kinds of chips together and add:
1 cup salted peanuts
1 cup Chinese noodles
Mix well together and drop by spoonfuls onto waxed paper. Make sure noodles stick out at odd angles to create a "hay stack" look.

Buckeyes
Mix together well:
2 cups peanut butter
3 cups icing sugar
1 cup butter
1 tsp vanilla
Roll into 1" or 1½" balls. Chill at least one hour or overnight.
Melt together over hot water:
12 oz semi-sweet chocolate and 1 tbsp butter
Using toothpick or long pick, dip the balls 1/3 of the way into chocolate, leaving 2/3 uncoated.
Place chocolate side down on waxed paper. Let stand until chocolate is firm.
This candy resembles a buck deer's eye. This is a little fussy but is truly delicious and worth the effort. A real Christmas treat.

Quick (But Good) Holiday Slaw
Shred a medium head of cabbage.
Julienne 1 red and 1 green bell pepper into a large bowl.
Toss together.
Combine and sprinkle over the mixture:
1 cup white sugar
¾ cup white vinegar
2 tbsp celery seed
1 tsp salt
1 tsp black pepper

Toss the cabbage, peppers and dressing together for a few minutes. Set aside to develop the flavours. This will last for several days in the refrigerator and seems to stay crisp for a long time.

"I"-Witness

A Christmas to Remember

Christmas in Barbados was, when I still lived there, a Christian celebration and very much a family affair. As with all "Bajan" festivals, food, family, friends, and fun (mostly music) were in abundance.

The Christmas I remember most vividly was a very special one. That year I had been ill and not able to walk. Because of my illness my grandmother had been visiting us from British Guiana (now Guyana). GranNita was a special person. When I was feeling sorry for myself she cheered me up.

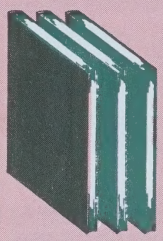
On Christmas Eve when everyone else was in church, she moved me out on the veranda and opened all the sliding windows so I could hear the carols drifting over the water, from the church across the bay.

The next morning I had planned to sleep late, determined not to be up at the same time as the others in the house. They would have to be up and off to church at dawn.

Grandmother, however, was not to be outdone, so she came to wake me. She was a sight. She had turned the peel of an orange inside out, cut teeth and spaces and popped it in her mouth. For a beard she had a bra fastened at the top of her head with the cups pulled under her chin. To top it off she wore a diaper made from a large beach towel, fastened with large kilt pins. She certainly did not look anything like Father Christmas, but I'll never forget that Christmas.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ with our families, let us remember the Holy Family so long ago celebrating the birth of their Son under "different" circumstances. Even though things may not always seem "normal", we can still be happy and have good memories.

Fleur Eenkhoorn,
Point Edward ON



BOOKS

Order from:
The Book Room
50 Wynford Drive
North York, ON M3C 1J7
416-441-1111 Ext. 239/240
E-mail: Bookroom@presbyterian.ca
Hours: Mon-Fri-9:00-4:45

1-800-619-7301
Please do not send payment with your order. (An invoice including postage and applicable tax will be sent with your order.) Please include name and location of congregation. **Note: VISA and Mastercard now accepted.**

365 WWJD? Daily Answers to What Would Jesus Do? by Nick Harrison, Harper, c1998. 232 p. including index of authors of quotes. YY2167 $15.50
Fascinating daily devotions to use throughout the year, January 1 to December 31 including February 29. Each daily reading consists of a brief scripture passage, a short quotation by authors from ancient to modern times and a WWJD? reflection by the author. Regular reading requires you to roam widely or stay within a narrow perspective of thought. I found it helpful and inspirational, a practical guide for living as Jesus would have us live. We need discipline to pursue the thoughts expressed, a good exercise for all ages.

I chose this book because of the WWJD? bracelets my young relatives were wearing thinking that I might give it to one of them. Then I decided that this book is for adults. It may assist them to discuss Christian ideas with children or other adults. Read, meditate and enjoy!

Jean Dancey

The Geneva Press, associated with the Presbyterian Church USA, has released their Older Adult Issues Series for group and personal use during the 1999 United Nations International Year of Older Persons: "Toward a Society for All Ages".

Four titles we carry in the Book Room focus on primary concerns for individuals and congregations in Canada today:

Saving Our Stories: A Legacy We Leave by Richard Morgan. GG6987 $7.50
Ideas for going about saving stories in a manner that will enrich reader's lives in years to come. Arranged for use on one's own or with a group over a series of six sessions.

Rituals for the Celebration of Later Life by M. Dosia Carlson GG6989 $7.50
Rituals for four different occasions are considered: daily routine, significant milestones, seasonal celebrations, and sacred ceremonies. The underlying reason for all of this is to make God more fully present for every day of one's life. Six sessions for personal or group study help make the longings of a heart take on form and substance in a person's life and in corporate worship.

Building an Intergenerational Church by Edward A. Loper GG6990 $7.50
Six sessions designed for a congregational task force focuses on the changes in our churches and society around family and aging.

The sheer projected numbers of older adults in the next years demands that churches shift out of a "what can we do for the old folks?" mentality. Since extended families are rare today, the church needs to develop a family model of relationship and care.

There's Someplace Like Home: Developing an Adult Day-Care Centre in Your Church by Lott, Plumb. Waters, Wilson GG6988 $7.50

Here's a starter guide to get you well on the road to developing a senior's program in your church building. Everything from nutrition to washroom facilities is touched on with suggestions for hiring contractors, getting licensing and adequate insurance. Helpful, although American in its list of related organizations and laws.

1999

towards a society for all ages

International Year of Older Persons 1999

Christmas Gift Idea

For those who minister to children and young teens. Rev. Bill Moody's 86-page book, "*Shoes from Heaven*", contains Bible-based stories, object talks, surprise features, musical items, games, contests, etc. which make Bible principles come alive! Also included are valuable teaching tips for use in church or home.

Send $4.95 plus $1.50 for postage to—
Rev. W.H. Moody,
413 3097 Palmer Drive,
Burlington, ON. L7M 4G8.

(Please mention where you saw this ad.)

Ministry and Church Vocations

A department of the Life and Mission Agency
Supported by *Presbyterians Sharing*

Our Focus – professional church leaders

Our Goal – the provision of caring, competent and appropriate support to professional church leaders and to the Church courts that are in covenant relationship with them.

How Can We Help?

We provide resources and services for

- Preparation for Ministry
- Congregations and Ministers/ Diaconal Ministers in Transition
- Sexual Abuse and Harassment Policy
- Continuing Education
- Women in Ministry

For more information, call Susan Shaffer
1 800 619-7301 or 416 441-1111 ext. 264 e-mail: sshaffer@presbyterian.ca

A CHRISTMAS TREE FOR THE BIRDS

One reason the Lord made man was to tend and care for His creation. In many places around the world Christmas customs include gifts to the animals. This one is for the birds!

GET READY

a small, living tree or bush
string
heavy needle and thread
scissors, kitchen knife
cookie cutters
peanut butter, suet, nuts, diced fruits, bread, fat drippings, popcorn, cranberries
nylon netting (from vegetable and fruit bags)

GET SET

Choose a small, living tree or bush near a window where you can enjoy watching the birds.

GO

Decorate the tree with good things for birds to eat. Seeds and fat are the best diet to help birds have good energy and keep warm. Here are some ideas for preparing a birds' feast for your tree.

- Cut oranges in half and scoop out the rind. Fill it with seeds and nuts and hang it like a small basket on the tree.
- Stuff a pine cone with hardened fat drippings or peanut butter and hang the cone from the tree.
- String popcorn, apple pieces, and cranberries together to make delicious ropes for the tree.
- Cut squares, triangles, or star shapes of suet. String with needle and thread to hang on the tree.
- Cut bread into fancy shapes with cookie cutters Spread each shape with butter, peanut butter, or softened fat which will harden when hung outside. String with needle and thread to hang on the tree.
- Mix seeds with fat and bread crumbs, and spoon mixture into pieces of nylon netting. Then tie corners together and hang from tree.

Watch as the birds in your neighborhood enjoy their special gift.

Source: ***The Big Book of Bible Crafts and Projects*** by Joy MacKenzie (ZondervanPublishingHouse, 1982), available at your local bookstore or by calling 800-727-3480.

MISSION IN ACTION

Budding
Toronto, ON

This letter arrived too late for the Nov/Dec issue last year so I saved it for your enjoyment at this season. Editor

December 1998 - As we are about to celebrate our first Christmas back in Canada after several years, we think with nostalgia about the many times we celebrated this important Christian festival in Nepal. Because the Nepali culture has no Christian tradition, it does not recognize Christmas and there is none of the festive atmosphere we are used to here.

No carols from the radio and the shopping areas. There are no lights and decorations. There is also no snow. Christmas is celebrated by the expatriate community in private and by the churches in a day of worship and feasting. We have some wonderful memories of these Nepali Christmas celebrations.

The first Christmas we were still in language school in Kathmandu. There were about twenty of us and most lived in the UMN guesthouse. We had no tree and not many ornaments so we decorated one of the rooms the best we could. Because of the unreliable power supply there were always plenty of candles at hand. Turkeys are not normally available, but some one had imported a couple from India. We had two scrawny, emaciated birds. We prepared the dinner, covered the tables with white bed sheets and red and green ribbons and had a wonderful celebration.

The following day our group broke up and we all left Kathmandu for our assignments in the projects. We went to Butwal. The personnel turnover in the United Missions is high and during the intervening years all the members of that group have left Nepal. We were the last to go.

The winters in Kathmandu are cold and damp. There is no snow, but Christmas day often falls at the beginning of the mini monsoon which may last for one or two weeks. It often brings torrential rains. This is precisely what happened one year when we spent Christmas Eve with friends there. After a delightful evening of eating, drinking, carol singing and story telling, the time to break up the party arrived. It might have been mid-

- Christmas in Nepal.

night. There was a power cut in effect and it was pitch dark. It was raining too hard for our umbrella to do any good and we had to wade through ankle deep water. The streets were dead quiet. You can imagine how thankful we were when one lonely taxi stopped and took us to our room. He charged too much but we were glad to pay it.

Butwal lies close to the Indian border and has a subtropical climate. It never snows. Yet, one time we had a white Christmas. Sometimes this mini monsoon brings hail and one year the hail was so severe and plentiful that we actually had a white Christmas. It only stayed for ten or fifteen minutes but nevertheless it happened. The Lord still works miracles. As in Bethlehem, Christmas in Nepal often brings the unexpected.

Now we are back in Canada and find many causes for gratitude. We are both healthy and getting slowly adjusted to the way of life. Our children and grandchildren are all doing well and we enjoy being close to them. We still live in borrowed quarters until the condo we bought is ready. Our unit will be on the tenth floor with a good view over Lake Ontario*. On a clear day we might see upstate New York. We have an exciting future to look forward to.

We would like again to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have supported us so generously during our years in Nepal, both in prayer and financially.

With all the best wishes and much of God's grace for the coming year.

Hubert & Nan

*The Buddings hope to be settled in by November 1999 at King and Parliament Streets, Toronto.

The McIntosh's Japan

Midsummer 1999 - Jack and Beth McIntosh have returned to Japan following a home assignment in Canada in the fall of 1998. Their return was delayed by Jack's need for health care. Now they look forward to two more years of service with Jack scaling down his life pace to match the level of his overall physical limits.

And so we have returned to Kyushu, where our colleagues have shown a welcome readiness to gather in our home, when possible, rather than have us travel long distances. Continuing as director of the Seinan Korean Christian Centre, Jack is encouraging pastors and laity alike to envision God's best for their witness to their church families, their local communities and their mission engagement in the world.

In each of our churches hangs a beautiful Ojibway dream catcher, made for us by Rev. Stewart Folster's daughter, Lisa, in Vancouver. May these colourful symbols prove an inspiration for the process of envisioning and sharing the best dreams of the people of God.

Clarabeth has taken up some of her former responsibilities in the local church, in the Fukuoka YWCA, and at the Kitakyushu Women's Centre MOVE, in preparation for the 5th UN Women's Conference scheduled for New York next year. But her schedule will remain flexible enough to allow her to accompany Jack on out-of-town assignments. We are enjoying sharing some of the pulpit opportunities, relieving Jack, to some extent, of the strain involved in the double language (Korean/Japanese) pre-

sentations. Even after 38 years, the intricacies of these languages continue to keep us humble.

We give thanks for the privilege of this safe return to Japan, for the well-coordinated health care here in Kokura, and the opportunities for meaningful engagements in both church and society. The burgeoning numbers of homeless/unemployed in all major centres of population, the vital needs of a rapidly aging society, and a crisis of confidence in both educating and parenting are all deep concerns here now.

One more special reason for thanksgiving - after a whirlwind romance in June and July, our son David was married on August 8 to Maki Fushii, Baptist minister at Tokyo's International Christian University Church. Maki and David met last August during the JNAC Church Women's Seminar in Toronto, where both Maki and Beth shared interpreting roles. The fact that they met first at the home of mutual friends, Glen and Joyce Davis, made it especially fitting that Bruce and Karen McAndless-Davis officiated at the wedding service in the Vancouver School of Theology chapel.

We continued to be surprised by new joys along life's road - a healthy new grandson, born in November to Janette and Jeff in Vancouver, and now a delightful new daughter-in-law. May your lives, too, continue to give you daily reminders of God's goodness and new reasons for thanksgiving.

Shalom in Christ's love,
Jack & Clarabeth

OVERSEAS STAFF BIRTHDAYS

December
1 - Heather Jones, Malawi
15 - Rick Allen, Kenya
24 - Agwu David Onuoha, Nigeria
31 - Jack McIntosh, Japan

January
13 - Caleb Lessard-Clouston, Japan
16 - Beth McIntosh, Japan

- Jack (left) and Beth McIntosh (third from left) at work among Koreans in Japan. Charlotte Brown, WMS Executive Secretary is on Beth's right.

Heather Jones

Malawi

August 1999 - I attended a wedding unlike any wedding I've ever attended, or even heard of! On Saturday, August 28, 1999, the Presbytery of Mzuzu married Rev. Henry Kondwone Mvula in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. It was a huge wedding, with hundreds of guests. The church was decorated; there was wedding cake, and a reception with wedding gifts displayed. And the man already has a wife!

All of this requires some explanation. Here in the Malawian Presbyterian Church, most ministers are assigned to congregations by the Synod office. Appointments last from a few months to a few years. In the history of the CCAP Synod of Livingstonia, there have been less than five times when a congregation has 'called' their own minister.

Rev. Mvula was appointed to St. Andrew's Church, Mzuzu three years ago. In that time, the congregation has grown significantly, and the new church building has made significant progress.

The foundation for this building was dug in 1987; the walls were built soon after that. However, the shell stood for 10 years, with little further progress. The wedding was held in the new church, which now has steel rafters and a roof, plastered walls, and a graduated floor. Most people in the congregation give credit for the growth in the congregation and the recent progress on the building project, to Rev. Mvula's ability to lead and encourage them.

So, the congregation approached the Presbytery with the request that they be allowed to 'call' Rev. Mvula to be their minister. To be 'called' here means that the Synod is asked not to transfer the minister for at least four years. All of the necessary procedures were followed, and the call was approved. All of which resulted in Saturday's 'wedding'.

As I sat in the church, waiting for the service to begin, I couldn't help but make comparisons with the induction service held for me at St. Paul's, Winchester, by the Presbytery of Brockville. There were many differences!

I will always remember the music from my induction service: the special effort made by the St. Paul's choir, and the wonderful anthem "Here I Am, Lord" that meant so much to me. At this service, there were six choirs. Instead of an organ prelude, there was a vocal prelude, which, in true African tradition, went on for about one hour and 15 minutes.

The processional experience was similar in name only. The efficiency and quiet dignity of the presbyters filing into the front pews at St. Paul's was nothing like the procession of participants in the service on Saturday. There was a master of ceremonies who announced the entrance of each of the participants: the Moderator and Moderator-elect of the Presbytery, the Clerk of Presbytery, the Minister and his wife, the Clerk of Session and the President of the Women's Guild. The St. Andrew's Praise team sang, accompanied by the electronic keyboard with its drumbeat playing. The participants in the service danced into the church and into their seats.

The service itself, though longer, was similar to our Canadian induction service. The congregation sang, the choirs sang, the Word of God was read and preached, an offering was taken, a charge was issued to the minister, prayers were offered for the strength of the congregation and the minister. If I had been able

to understand the language, I might have been able to convince myself, at least briefly, that I was in a Canadian church.

But with the benediction, all similarities to a Canadian experience ended. After a moment taken to rearrange furniture, we moved very definitely from 'induction mode' to 'wedding mode'.

The master of ceremonies returned, and to my amazement, a procession of gifts began. First came a coffee table, followed closely by a headboard for a bed. The parade continued with a new mattress, sheets, blankets, pots, dishes, and even fluorescent tubes. At some point in here, there was the ceremony of the cutting of the cake. Rev. Mvula and the clerk of session each put a hand on the knife and made the first cut, to the sound and sight of many pictures being snapped. It was like any Canadian wedding scene - almost!

The various groups of guests - members of the congregation's Guilds, general congregation members, Synod staff, relatives of the Minister and his wife, representatives of local and traditional government, and guests from other congregations - were all invited, in turn, to dance up and place gifts of money on the plate. People gave what they could: tambala coins, five kwacha notes, or cheques for hundreds of kwacha. Three members of the congregation worked constantly to keep track of these gifts, keeping the guests informed of how close we were to the 'target' amount of 10,000 Malawian Kwacha. (A minister earns about 2000 kwacha in one month.) By the end of the gift giving, which lasted about one and a half hours, we had surpassed the target figure!

Following the time of giving, there was a time of speeches. As they started, it was approaching 2:30. Most of us had been in the church since 9:00, and we hadn't had a break. The speeches lasted one hour. We were then dismissed to lunch: rice and beans, and vegetables and meat - a true Malawian feast. It was an interesting experience, and a wonderful celebration in the life and work of St. Andrew's, Mzuzu. I came away knowing that while there is much that the Canadian and Malawian churches share in common, we also have unique and fascinating practices. At the end of the day I told many of my friends, "Malawians have much more stamina for sitting in church than Canadians I know".

Prayer Requests

Canada

1. Pray for Nan and Hubert Budding as they settle into retirement in Toronto.

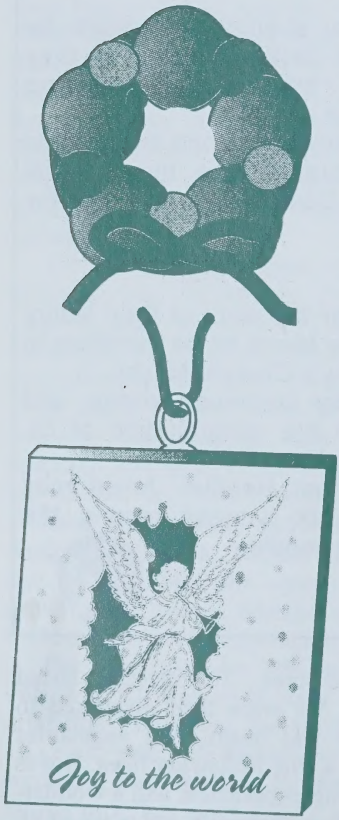
Japan

1. Pray for strength and health for Beth and Jack McIntosh as they continue their ministry among Koreans in Japan.
2. Pray for wisdom and creativity in the preparations for the 5th UN Women's Conference scheduled for next year.

Malawi

1. Pray for the work of Rev. Henry Kondwone Mvula as he ministers to St. Andrew's Church, Mzuzu.
2. Pray for continued energy and growth in the congregation of St. Andrew's, Mzuzu.
3. Pray that Heather Jones may grow in her witness among the Malawian people.

Share your joy with these last-minute Christmas gifts



Treasure tiles

4-inch square ceramic tile
Small picture cut from old Christmas card
Permanent fine-point marker
Transparent glitter
White glue, thinned with a small amount of water
Small brush
Pull-tab from a soft drink can
Ribbon

1. Glue picture onto tile.
2. With marker, write a Christmas greeting or Scripture on the tile.
3. Brush a thin coat of glue evenly over tile. Sprinkle lightly with glitter. Let dry.
4. Use full-strength glue to attach pull-tab to the back of the tile as a hanger. Thread ribbon through loop to hang. (Or you may glue a longer ribbon to the tile for hanging and omit pull-tab.)

- from Hunting for Bible Treasures by Joy MacKenzie (Zondervan 1994). Available through ReadOn Books or by calling 1-800-727-3480

Pompom wreath pin

1 green felt circle, 1½ inches in diameter
5 half-inch green pompoms
5 tiny pompoms in assorted colours
Beads, bells, or sequins
4½ inches of 1/8-inch satin ribbon
Tacky glue
Jewellery pin or magnetic tape

1. Glue green pompoms around felt circle.
2. Glue tiny pompoms at random in spaces between larger pompoms.
3. Glue beads, etc. at random.
4. Tie a satin bow and glue to base of wreath.
5. Glue a pin or magnet to the back.

by Esther Lee
- Reprinted from Link & Visitor, December 1997.

NEWS

GIDEONS' GOAL FOR 2002

- Andrea McDaniels, Nashville, USA, 24 August (ENI) - Gideons International, best known for depositing Bibles in hotel rooms around the world, is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

More than 8900 Gideons from 124 countries took part in a conference from 20 to 23 July at the group's headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee. The president of Gideons International, Lloyd V. Stone, spoke on the theme of John 17:23--"That the world may know"--summing up the group's accomplishments and announcing its anniversary goal: to give away a total of one billion bibles by 2002.

The Gideons claim to have distributed 850 million copies of the Bible to hotels, prisons, military installations, hospitals and airplanes in the past 100 years. Currently they are distributing bibles in 172 countries, at a rate of 45 million bibles annually.

They had been allowed to perform their work everywhere except Islamic countries, the Gideons said.

Although they do not have any means of establishing how many of the bibles in hotels and elsewhere are actually read, the Gideons receive many letters every day from people claiming their lives have been changed by reading them.

The inspiration for Gideons International came from two businessmen who decided to share a room at a crowded hotel in the town of Boscobel in the US state of Wisconsin in 1898. Both soon discovered that they were committed Christians, and agreed to create an association for travelling Christian businessmen. They chose the name of Gideon, a character in the Bible (Judges 6-8) who was humble, faithful and obedient to God.

BEIJING BLOCKS POPE'S VISIT

- Edmund Doogue, Geneva, 12 August (ENI)--The Chinese government has blocked plans for Pope John Paul to visit Hong Kong during an Asian tour later this year, according to a Roman Catholic bishop in Hong Kong.

China is blaming the Vatican's links with Taiwan for the decision not to allow the Roman Catholic leader to visit Hong Kong, which was returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. The Vatican is one of a handful of states which recognizes Taiwan. Beijing, which views the island as a renegade province that should be returned to Chinese sovereignty, refuses to have diplomatic links with states recognizing Taiwan. Despite this, a Hong Kong newspaper revealed on 11 August that the Vatican had kept an unofficial envoy in the former colony since 1997.

According to the BBC, Beijing's decision has infuriated Hong Kong's pro-democracy politicians, who claim that it will undermine international confidence in Hong Kong and erode the autonomy of the territory.

"Disquiet has been growing among Hong Kong Catholics about what they feel is increasing religious repression on the mainland," the newspaper said. Hong Kong has at least 250,000 Chinese Catholics, along with 120,000 Filipino Catholics, most of whom are employed as domestic workers.

VOISEY'S BAY ANNOUNCEMENT CAUSES OUTRAGE

August 17, 1999, Toronto: A national coalition of Aboriginal, environmental, and church groups is demanding to know why the Federal and Newfoundland governments are ignoring the key recommendations of a publicly appointed and funded environmental assessment panel. The Voisey's Bay-Innu Rights Coalition is

expressing bewilderment at the governments' recent decision to allow the controversial Voisey's Bay nickel mine in Labrador to proceed without the settlement of land claims and impact benefits agreements with Aboriginal communities in the region.

This is the first mega-project to start and complete a review under the new Environmental Assessment Act and Agency. Many public groups in Newfoundland/ Labrador and across Canada invested a lot of time and energy into responding to the lengthy, expensive review process of the controversial mine. The public panel spent three years looking at the environmental assessment panel report addressing many of the public's concerns.

"The announcement is a slap in the face," maintains Lorraine Land of Citizens for Public Justice, one of the coalition members who developed submissions to the panel. "We are, frankly, livid: this new assessment process was supposed to do a better job of listening to Canadians' concerns" now, instead of being listened to, the federal and Newfoundland governments have turned around and blithely ignored the first, key recommendations of the panel, namely that land claims and impact benefits agreements with the Native communities must happen before the mine proceeds. Why spend our tax dollars and squander thousands of hours of the public's time if the governments plan to blatantly disregard what their public panel says, anyway?"

The Voisey's Bay - Innu Rights Coalition has noted that the Innu and Inuit have responded to the governments' announcements by calling into question how the Native communities might intervene through court challenges, protests and other mechanisms to delay the mine. "We are certainly waiting to see how the Innu and Inuit respond - it's their land, not INCO's, and we're ready to do whatever we can to back efforts to stop this mine if Aboriginal land rights and other concerns are not addressed," declared Carol Lynn Wallace, another coalition member.

DALAI LAMA ADDRESSES INTER-FAITH CONGREGATION

- Edmund Doogue, Geneva, 10 August (ENI)--Those who engage in wars of religion do not put their own faith into practice, the Dalai Lama told an inter-faith congregation gathered at Geneva's St Pierre Cathedral on Sunday, 8 August.

The 64-year-old spiritual leader of Tibet's Buddhists, who has lived in exile from Chinese-occupied Tibet since 1959, was the guest preacher at the Protestant cathedral. The church service coincided with the annual Festival of Geneva, which this year had the Tibetan people as their special guests. Switzerland has about 2500 Tibetan residents, the biggest Tibetan community in Europe. More than 2000 people filled the cathedral to capacity for the service, while 3000 more gathered in front of the building and heard the address on loudspeakers.

Speaking in Tibetan, with his words interpreted into French, the Dalai Lama told the congregation that all the great religions deserved respect, and, if practised seriously, were a path to love and peace.

Those who waged war in the name of religion had, the Dalai Lama said, failed to look beyond their religion to other faiths that they opposed. If they did examine other faiths, they would recognize the same desire for transformation as in their own.

"It's not enough to belong to a religion," according to the Buddhist leader, who, according to Tibetans, is the 14th incarnation of the Dalai Lama. "You have to experience it. Spirituality is like a medicine. To heal the illness, it is not sufficient to look at the medicine and talk about

it. You have to ingest it."

In spite of their differing methods, the great religions shared a common goal - to make people better, he said. He advised the congregation to follow seriously "your own spiritual path".

FATE OF LENIN'S BODY

- Andrei Zolotov, Moscow, 5 August (ENI)-Seventy-five years after the death of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, his body, embalmed in a mausoleum in Moscow's Red Square, is the subject of political controversy in Russia.

Lenin, who led the Bolshevik revolution in 1917 and became the head of the first Soviet government, was a national hero throughout the communist period, and is still revered by Russia's Communists. The fate of his corpse could be a crucial factor in Russia's next parliamentary and presidential elections.

"He will be buried," President Boris Yeltsin told a Moscow newspaper last month. "The question is when."

In a later interview, published on 4 August, President Yeltsin's chief of staff, Alexander Voloshin, said that Lenin's body would "definitely" be removed from the mausoleum. Asked when, he declined to name a date.

The Russian Orthodox Church also supports in principle plans to bury the remains of Lenin, but is treating the subject very cautiously.

The current debate about Lenin's burial began as the Soviet empire began to disintegrate. In 1990 prominent theatre director Mark Zakharov declared that "our Orthodox ancestors did not intend to have a pagan temple in the Red Square".

The head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Alexei II, added to the debate on 24 April this year. During a religious procession in Krasnaya Square (Red Square, which in Russian also means "beautiful square"), the patriarch said that it was "inappropriate" to use the country's main square as a cemetery. (Behind Lenin's mausoleum, 12 top Soviet leaders, including Joseph Stalin, are buried in graves. Cremated ashes of dozens more, including the first cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, are buried in the walls of the Kremlin, which also holds a mass grave of Bolsheviks who were killed during the 1917 revolution.)

Boris Yeltsin, who has described himself as the "grave-digger of communism", has many times declared his wish to see Lenin buried, thus marking a definitive end to Communism.

MURDERED NUN INSPIRES FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

- Chris Herlinger, New York, 10 August (ENI)--William Ford is a New York attorney with a successful law practice on Wall Street. He is also the brother of one of four American churchwomen murdered nearly 20 years ago in El Salvador - a fact that has caused him relentless sadness and a determination to see justice done.

"A death like Ita's never goes away," Ford told ENI in a recent interview about the case involving his sister, Ita Ford, one of the four Catholic American women raped and killed by four Salvadoran National Guardsmen. "It's not like the death of a parent that somehow heals with the passage of time. It's a death that is still very hard to come to terms with."

Ford and the families of the other women recently filed a wrongful death suit against two retired Salvadoran generals - Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova and Jose Guillermo Garcia - who now reside in the US state of Florida.

The suit was filed in May under a US law allowing victims of torture or their surviving family members to sue officials who had the authority to prevent violent acts. The suit claims the two were ultimately responsible

for the deaths in 1980 of the four Catholic women - Sister Ita Ford, fellow Maryknoll nun Maura Clarke, Ursuline nun Dorothy Kazel and lay missionary Jean Donovan.

At the time of the murders, Vides Casanova was the head of El Salvador's National Guard, and Garcia was defence minister.

The suit was brought to establish ultimate responsibility for the murders of the four churchwomen, something that William Ford and the other family members say both the Salvadoran and United States government failed to do.

At the time, the murders of the churchwomen caused an outcry in the US. The women's deaths were subsequently thought by many, including William Ford, to have helped put an end to direct US military engagement in El Salvador, where the US had supported a series of right-wing governments fighting a left-wing insurgency.

The four churchwomen were not the only victims. By the time the Salvadoran government and the rebels signed a peace treaty in 1992, some 76,000 people had perished.

BARRED FROM HOMOSEXUAL MINISTRY

- Chris Herlinger, New York, 2 August (ENI)--A Vatican decision to bar an American priest and nun from continuing their ministry to Catholic gays and lesbians and their families has sparked protests from a number of Catholic organizations in the US and the United Kingdom.

A leading Catholic peace organization, Pax Christi, has called on the US National Conference of Catholic Bishops to appeal against the ban on Father Robert Nugent, aged 62, and Sister Jeannine Gramick, aged 57. Two board members of the National Coalition of American Nuns (NCAN) have called for the resignation of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who heads the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (DCF), which issued the 13 July declaration.

Criticism of the Vatican decision also came from the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, a leadership group of US nuns, and from Dignity/USA, the biggest national organization of gay and lesbian Catholics. "That the Vatican, through the CDF, would seek to prohibit the pastoral work of Sister Gramick and Father Nugent runs counter to the church's clear teaching that homosexual people are the 'beloved creation of God'," Dignity's president, Robert Miailovich, said in a statement.

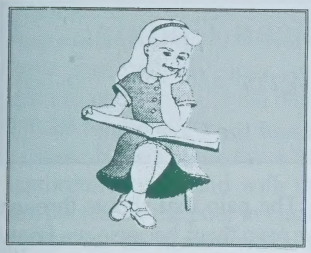
The Vatican declaration barring Nugent and Gramick from ministering to homosexual men and lesbians said the two had not sufficiently condemned homosexuality as "intrinsically evil" and that their ministry had caused confusion within the church, resulting in "erroneous and dangerous" teaching.

When asked by ENI why gay and lesbian Roman Catholics should remain in the church, Nugent said the church remained a source of salvation and grace. He likened the current situation to a disagreement within a family. "A lot of people - gay, straight, married, single - remain in the church while struggling with its teachings", he said. The church was poorer for the loss of "the gifts of those who leave" the institution out of anger or frustration.

INVEST IN CANADA'S CHILDREN

Toronto, August 6 - Provincial and federal governments must give all children and their families a good, solid start to ensure the well-being of future generations, says Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ).

On the eve of the First Ministers meeting, CPJ wrote to provincial and territorial government leaders urging them to discuss ways to eradicate child poverty and provide early childhood education and enrichment



programs.

In its recommendations, CPJ pointed out that child poverty is directly related to the economic situation of families and communities. Therefore, to fight child poverty, governments should pursue measures that would:
- focus the benefits of tax reform on low (including those on social assistance), modest and middle-income families with children, and improve social assistance benefits;
- invest in affordable housing, as the housing market has failed to provide decent, affordable housing to families with low incomes;
- improve the availability of secure, full-time work that pays living wages; and
- create or fund early childhood education or enrichment programs (such as those described in Ontario's Early Years Report).

"Our investment in children often takes second place to activities that some presume may stimulate the economy in the short-run, but create deep social and economic divisions in the longer term," says CPJ Executive Director Harry Kits. "Children also fall [into] the cracks when provincial and federal governments engage in turf wars and partisanship."

CPJ is very concerned about the increase in child poverty. In the 10 years that Parliament vowed to eliminate child poverty, foodbank use increased 118 per cent; 41.5 per cent of foodbank users are children. The rate of child poverty rose from 14.5 per cent in 1989 to 19.8 per cent in 1997, which is an increase of 463,000 children. One in five children now lives in poverty in Canada.

As part of a national campaign, CPJ has produced materials and advocacy actions aimed at eradicating child poverty.

ECUMENISM MUST BE MORE POPULAR

- Jerry L. Van Marter, Geneva, 26 August (ENI)--The ecumenical movement of the 21st century must focus less on church institutions and more on the church as "the whole people of God", the moderator of the World Council of Churches' (WCC) central committee said today.

At a press conference following his report to the 158 members of the central committee, who were elected in Harare last December by the WCC's 8th assembly, Catholicos Aram I, of the Armenian Apostolic Church, said: "The church is not just institutions but the people of God...we in the World Council of Churches must deepen our collaboration with all people."

Aram's remarks echoed the WCC's determination to reinvent itself for the new millennium as an institution that is less programmatic and more focused on the relationships between member churches and with other, non-member Christian bodies.

"The church is not a museum, destined to remain immutable and untouchable," Catholicos Aram said. "The church is not a self-centred and self-sufficient reality ...the church must search constantly for more relevant modes of being church."

Catholicos Aram said that a clear message from the Harare assembly and the basic challenge of "Common Understanding and Vision" - the restructuring of the WCC adopted by the 8th assembly - "is that the council should go beyond its institutional obligations and manifestations - it should focus less on programs and more on fellowship-building".

Central America and the Caribbean Update: Special Giving Campaigns

by Joe Reed, Area Missionary to Central America and the Caribbean

Canadian Presbyterians demonstrated enormous generosity to the people of Central America over the past months. These gifts have enabled our partners to do quite remarkable things.

The response to Presbyterian World Service and Development's efforts after Hurricane Mitch moved all of us. Presbyterians gave almost three quarters of a million dollars. Most went to work in Nicaragua, one of the countries hardest hit. Also the country in which we have the most established partnerships.

And how was it used? Perhaps a small example: "Nueva Vida", spread around the outskirts of Ciudad Sandino, a Managua suburb. Amazingly dusty so soon after the rains, it is home to those desperate people who once lived along the shores of Lake Managua but whom rising waters displaced. Six months after the storm, people still huddle under sheets of black plastic.

Privileged to visit these valiant people a few months after the tragedy, I watched one of our partner agencies, CIVEMN (A strange acronym to be sure: "The Integrated Centre for the Life of Women and Children") distribute tubs to some thirty families. Cement tubs that stand a metre high in which to wash clothes. Each costing something like twenty dollars.

A line of horse drawn carts pulls up outside the centre. Men and boys lug the tubs to the carts and Ana María Reyes, the co-ordinator, carefully ticks off a name: one by one the carts move off to "New Life".

Why do Presbyterians in Canada care about children and women bending over these tubs? (Yes, women: I fear that gender roles in Nicaragua are only beginning to be transformed.) The pain that shoots through their backs? We love them because we know that we too are loved. And your generosity moves me to tears.

Or think of the Francisco Coll School in the Guatemala City garbage dump. A hundred children who spend their childhood rummaging through garbage looking for a bite of food or a scrap of plastic. Children who struggle for an education. And now, for the first time, children graduating from Grade Six. Some ready to go on to secondary school.

Scholarships for those remarkable children became the project for the PCC 1998-1999 Learning/Sharing Project within our Vacation Bible Schools, and so on. Hardly had the summer begun when we realized more than $15,000 for these wonderful children and their studies. Without your generosity, without our children's generosity, their sisters and brothers would spend the rest of lives in that stinking garbage. Thank you!

Two videos tell these stories. Please contact PWSD for the *Hurricane Mitch* video or the Distribution Service for "Francisco Coll: the School that Makes a Difference."

Staff Changes

1999 marks significant changes in our staff assignments in Central America. As our work and ministries evolve we explore exciting new fields.

Brenda and Jim Patterson, our newest appointments prepare to serve the people of the Baptist Federation in El Salvador. As the church marshals forces to minister in the post-war era, Jim will serve in the western part of the country, working in leadership

development and new church planting. Like many churches in El Salvador, the Baptists have suffered divisions since the peace accords and Jim will help build a strong base for the future.

Ken Kim continues with our church's commitment to stand with those who serve the poorest of the poor in Guatemala. He will be serving an agency which monitors working conditions in maquilladoras, the trade free zones established, outside Guatemalan labour laws, to produce cheap goods for our consumption. His appointment is a daring support of a new agency.

Denise Van Wissen, has moved to the northern part of Nicaragua. With years of experience working with the mothers of malnourished children in Managua, she now brings her skills to bear on desperate needs in rural areas, exactly those areas devastated by Hurricane Mitch.

Nicaragua is a tropical country: growing seasons follow each other and as soon as one fruit goes out of season, another enters. So why are people hungry? Why are God's children walking with bulging bellies of malnutrition? Thank God for Denise' ministry!

Fernando Cascante has been working in support of Christian Education efforts in Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Cuba. He has been called to a professorship at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia, USA. He will continue on our staff, however, making use of his holidays and academic breaks to share his skills and expertise with the people of the Region. So, while his home will move from San José to Richmond, his ministry continues to embrace our people here.

Youth in Mission

In late August, a group of young people from across Canada spent a week in Nicaragua, learning about the church's ministry in that context and helping with reconstruction efforts after Hurricane Mitch. They were selected from applicants from all Provinces and spent time coming to know the Nicaraguan people and their churches.

An innovation this time: several Nicaraguan young people participated in their activities, giving them the chance to "bond" with their contemporaries from the Region. They also spent some time learning a few words of Spanish. This study was something of an experiment based on the policy of the Mennonites. They feel that even if one is in the Region for a few days, it's important to learn a few phrases: "Buenos Dias", "Gracias", and "Hasta Manana" come to mind!

A full report of their activities, from the perspective of the youths themselves, will follow.

Joe Reed is a Dad

Finally, a personal note. Many of you will know that I have acted in loco parentis for a number of years for my godson, Roberto Laura Garcia. He is now 23, a former Sandinista soldier, with many stories to tell and a spirit that an agonizing childhood could not defeat. This summer, I formally adopted him: fatherhood at the age of 52 both becoming and terrifying me. I am extraordinarily happy, and want to give thanks to God, and to all of you as well.

- Jim and Brenda Patterson

IN THE SOCIETY

SYNODICAL

The 85th Annual Meeting of the **Manitoba and North Western Ontario** Synodical was held April 16 and 17, 1999 in **Knox-Zion, Carberry**, MB. The theme was *Precious Memories - The Everlasting Gift.*

The Friday evening banquet was hosted by Knox-Zion women, and the Communion Service was conducted by Rev. Dale Woods and Rev. Allan Young.

The Saturday session included three vignettes on the theme. The first, by Gloria Kennedy Grainger, highlighted the three Presbyterial's involvement in CGIT and women's work.

The second, presented by Donna Johnson, highlighted the legacy of Signe Mackay's lively participation in the WMS with her original poems, skits and songs.

The third, presented by Ina Borger, paid tribute to Irene Marnoch, her many talents and dedication to church life.

Esther Powell, WMS President, addressed the group, relating the stone rolled from Jesus' burial place to the many stones we encounter in our lives, and how we can overcome them through self-renewal.

Reports were given by Rev. Ian Morrison, Life and Mission Agency. Rev. Allan Young and Jeanette Young of the North Peace Territorial Ministry conducted a Mission Workshop, showing slides and describing the ministry.

Brenda Patterson installed the new executive. Ina Borger expressed appreciation to Brenda and Donna Johnson. Brenda and her husband, Rev. Jim Patterson, are leaving for a five-year appointment to mission work in El Salvador.

On May 15, on the occasion of the annual Flora House Spring Tea, Ina Borger, Synodical President, presented Warren Whittaker with a WMS Life Membership and the new WMS pin, given by the Synodical in recognition of 20 years of faithful service at Flora House.

PRESBYTERIAL

The 83rd Annual Meeting of **Kamloops** Presbyterial was held in **St. Andrew's, Kamloops**, BC, May 13-14, 1999. President Iris Orton presided. Janet Tremblay gave the combined opening worship and In Memoriam.

Reports included those of Pietje Kragt, regional staff co-ordinator, Joan Monteith, representative to Presbytery, Betty McLagan and Shirley McCaig, on Council.

Evening speaker, Rev. Bert Kamphuis with the New Life Mission in Kamloops, spoke of work with street people. He also spoke of the House of Ruth, recently opened for women with substance abuse.

Friday morning's worship and communion was led by Rev. C. McNeil. Following that, we gathered for a "Hands On" project, the filling of small bags, which had been made by Kay Mori, with small items and toiletries, which were later delivered to the House of Ruth.

Following lunch and a singalong led by Joyce Armstrong, Mrs. E. Reside of Summerland led in a Bible Study. This was based on the theme of the meeting *Do Unto Others* and taken from Matthew 25:21-46.

Rev. Betty McLagan installed the new executive. The President closed with prayer.

Kingston Presbyterial members enjoyed their third annual outing to **Amherst Island** on June 22. We were blessed with sunny weather for the ferry ride and a cordial welcome from the St. Paul's women who provided refreshments.

Rev. Patricia Gelder led the group in an inspiring and informative session on "Prayer". This outing has become very popular with the women in our churches. It replaces an executive meeting that is now held earlier in the spring.

Love is the service of others and is not self-centred (Living Faith 8.3.3) was the theme of **East Toronto** Presbyterial Spring Rally, held in Faith Church on April 27.

Following a hymn sing led by Joan Neilson and Lorna Teare, Noreen Marshall welcomed everyone. Rev. Bob Syme brought greetings from the session of Faith Church.

Ina Hill and women from Faith Church conducted the worship and provided refreshments.

Reports were given by delegates to the Toronto/Kingston Synodical Annual Meeting.

Lottie Hainey introduced Nan and Hubert Budding who showed slides on their work in Nepal.

Eva Powrie had an excellent selection of books to peruse.

Thanks and courtesies were given by Shirley Mason and Jean Rankine.

Mary-Lou Johnston, past President of **Montreal** Presbyterial, recently retired from her teaching position in Montreal and moved with her husband Geoff, to Dunville in southern Ontario. Geoff had also retired as Director of Studies at Presbyterian College, Montreal.

On June 16, at the home of one of the members, a lunch was held in Mary-

Lou's honour and she was presented with an Honorary Life Membership in the WMS. In the photo, Lois Klempa (right), also a past President of the Presbyterial, presents Mary-Lou (left) with pin.

Peterborough Presbyterial's autumn adventure was held at Elim Lodge Saturday September 11. The theme for the day was *We can make a difference.*

Rev. Hugh Donnelly of Beaches Church, Toronto, opened the worship. Muriel Bell of Port Hope led in a prayer, followed by Kass Whitefield, Cobourg with a reading from Matthew 28.

President Joan Smith of Port Hope welcomed everyone and introduced executive members who planned the workshop on Cuba.

A fitness workout was led by Nancy Millar, Norwood.

Martha Carmichael of The Book Room, Wynford Drive, Toronto, had a display of interesting books and gave an informative review on new books.

Following lunch and a singalong, guest speaker Happy Mireault, Cobourg, presented slides and commentary on Children of Chernobyl. Happy belongs to a group that brings these children to Canada for 12 weeks each year.

Courtesies were given by Joan Lucas, Peterborough. Joan Smith closed the meeting with prayer for victims of Chernobyl.

LOCAL

Margaret W. Ferguson, who died this summer, was a charter member of **Dunne Memorial** Presbyterian Church, Long Branch where she was also a CGIT girl and leader.

In 1925 she became a member of Mimico Church and was Mission Band leader. As a member of the WMS, she served on West Toronto Presbyterial.

In 1941 she served on Council Executive and was Children's Work Secretary. She wrote many articles for the Glad Tidings and planned the Explorer Manual with Lily MacArthur and other members of the National Children's Work Board. At this time she belonged to the Dickson Auxiliary at Cooke's Presbyterian Church, Toronto. She also served as President of the Ewart College Board.

In 1963 she moved with her husband Bill to Baltimore, ON and became a member of the Marion Ewart WMS at St. Andrew's Church in Cobourg. Margaret became co-leader of the Explorers for six years and was involved with Peterborough Presbyterial.

The **Penticton** WMS lost another stalwart of the faith with the passing of **Mary** (better known as Mamie) **Latimer** on August 18, 1999.

Her 91 years were filled to the brim with faithful service to God in various capacities. Whatever Mamie did, she did well.

She was a lifetime member of WMS and served on the Executive in Penticton for many years until failing health forced her to take a lesser role. She was also a very caring Elder who always took note of the newcomer and was alert to the needs of others.

Her baking skills were phenomenal and always a tremendous boost to the

CIRCULATION NEWS

Katherine Allen
Circulation Manager

Has your group returned the Glad Tidings subscription list to the office? These lists were due by the deadline, November 1, in order to have any changes/deletions/additions done for the January/February 2000 issue. It also saves time and money in not having to follow up later.

Is there anyone to whom you would like to send a gift subscription? If so, please give the person's name to the Glad Tidings secretary for her to add to the subscription list. If the list has already been returned, either the GT secretary or you can send the information directly to the office. Make sure it is marked "gift" and who it is from. Also please indicate whether you wish our office to send the recipient a gift card or whether you wish a gift card sent to you to give to them.

Is the magazine promoted within the whole congregation? One suggestion might be that when you have your Thankoffering Service on a Sunday morning, have copies of the Glad Tidings available to hand out, with a subscription form enclosed. If you would like extra copies of the Glad Tidings, please contact the Glad Tidings office. Up to 50 copies are available free of charge for promotional purposes.

Ladies Guild's bake sales.

In every way she was a pillar of the church and will be greatly missed. One of her favourite hymns, which was sung at her funeral, "All the way my Saviour leads me" was typical of the way she lived her life. In thanksgiving for her life we will carry on with the work of God's church.

Marjorie Bender, immediate Past President of the Afternoon WMS of **St. Andrew's, Kitchener**, Ontario, was presented with a life Membership Certificate by former President, Emily Finney.

Helen Smith is pictured on the occasion of her 80th birthday when she had an Open House party. Helen was the first president of the Laura K. Pelton WMS, Windsor in 1947, and president again for their 50th in 1997.

Correction: July/August 1999 - Catherine E. MacRae, who received an honorary membership certificate in 1998, should have been listed under Dunvegan Kenyon instead of Vankleek Hill, ON.

PRICE INCREASE
The cost of a Life Membership pin has increased from $52 to $55 (including GST).

THE PRESBYTERIAN MESSAGE

THE WORLD FOR CHRIST

Publication of the
Atlantic Mission Society

10 issues per year - $10.00

- Mission information
- Education
- Inspiration
- Communication

Send subscriptions to:
The Presbyterian Message
c/o Mrs. Janice Trowsdale
Ellerslie, PEI C0B 1J0
Telephone: 902-831-2817
Email: wjt_hilltop@pei.sympatico.ca

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. Christena Sode
Cobden, ON

Maudie Kruppe
Knox, Fingal, ON

Mrs. Catherine Crawford Wilson
Knox, Goderich, ON

Mrs. Edna Lodge
MacNab Street, Hamilton, ON

Mrs. Ida M. MacDonald
St. Andrew's, Kamloops, BC

Miss Wilhelmine Brown
New St. James, London, ON

Margaret W. Ferguson
Dunne Memorial, Long Branch, ON

Edith Moore
St. Andrew's, Molesworth, ON

Joane Kaspersma
North Caradoc, ON

Kathleen McMeekin
Knox, Ottawa, ON

Mary (Mamie) Latimer
Penticton, BC

Mrs. Evelyn Herron
St. Andrew's, Sarnia, ON

Mrs. Jessie Bates
Knox, Teeswater, ON

Mrs. Catherine L. (Hall) MacPherson
Toronto, ON

Swaddling Clothes

I unpacked nativity,
Removed layers of tissue
Carefully folded around
Your tiny form
Wrapped in swaddling clothes,
Placed you with the sheep and star
Shepherds and the kings.
In linen cloths
You couldn't move.
Though angels sang triumphant chorus
You were helpless then.

Let me not keep you as infant
In the cradle of my soul,
Nor hide you always
In the nursery of my mind
Where your demands are easily met,
But may I free you to maturity
Hear you challenge me
To see things differently
And follow you.

Gwyneth Bell

Gwyneth Bell is a
much published poet
who lives in Edmonton, AB.

Glad Tidings is printed
on recycled paper

Please report any errors/changes in address.